



ABOVE: Santa came to Bridgend last Saturday and attracted a crowd of happy children.
(See page 6 for more photographs by Randell John).

Local man charged after cyclist injured

A MAN has been charged after the incident that left Paralympic gold medal-winning cyclist Simon Richardson in hospital with serious injuries.

A 60-year-old man from the Cowbridge area has been charged with driving offences following the road traffic collision on Wednesday, August 17, on the A48 between Bridgend and Cowbridge.

He is due to appear at Barry Magistrates Court on December 7, 2011.

Police in appeal after elderly woman is robbed

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for witnesses following a robbery at an address in Heol Las, North Cornelly between 6pm and 6.25pm on Monday (November 28).

An 87-year-old woman was alone in her home when she was attacked by three males, who later searched property and stole a quantity of cash.

"The suspects were disturbed by a relative visiting the victim and all three then fled from the premises in a small vehicle, which was possibly red or burgundy in colour," a police spokesman said.

Officers have released a description of two of the suspects. One is described as 6'-6"1" tall, slim build, possibly receding hair, high forehead, wearing a light weight jacket, and jeans. The other is 5'4"-5'6" tall, medium to stocky build - all three were wearing dark clothing.

Acting Detective Inspector Gareth Morgan of Bridgend CID said "This is a despicable crime committed against an elderly, vulnerable lady in her own home, who has been left extremely upset and distressed".

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Prison inmate was 'slashed' in a razor blade attack - court is told

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AN INMATE of Parc Prison, Bridgend, suffered serious injuries when a fellow prisoner attacked him armed with a toothbrush in which razor blades had been embedded.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that 19-year-old Michael Hancock had 10 stitches put into a cut to his left cheek and injuries to his left hand and left leg.

His attacker Isleigh Pavis (20), who lives in London E5, admitted wounding with intent and was given a sentence for public protection.

It was directed that he serve a minimum of five years before being considered for parole.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said Hancock was serving two-and-a-half years for robbery.

Pavis was serving five years for wounding with intent from a violent disorder and stabbing an 11-year-old boy.

The two men, said Mr Greenwood, had been "quite friendly", and associated happily.

Mr Greenwood told the court that Hancock had said he knew of no reason for the attack but described Pavis as a "strange character".

He was taking a shower when the

curtains suddenly opened and Pavis attacked him.

The court was told that Hancock later said: "His eyes looked crazy."

Hancock tried to get out of the shower, but slipped and fell, with Pavis continuing to slash at his leg.

Prison officers raced to his assistance.

They had seen Pavis advancing on his naked victim, and slashing downwards.

Mr Greenwood said that one prison officer had said: "It was a terrible attack, and unprovoked. I had never seen anything like it."

Pavis was shouting: "See what you get, this is what you get." The victim had a gaping wound to his face.

Mr Greenwood said the victim had been taken completely by surprise, and didn't see the attack coming.

Hancock had been deliberately targeted and there had been some planning.

Carl Harrison, defending, said: "Pavis had been having a difficult time in prison. He was regularly teased and wound up.

"He was brave to plead guilty to such an offence."

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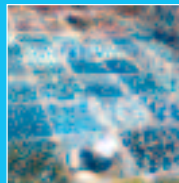
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Mayor of Porthcawl reports on eventful November diary..!

My husband and consort (Mr Bill Stubbs) and I, were fortunate enough to meet the inspiring Lorraine Stone, who had taken part in the Cardiff Half Marathon and raised £1,200 for the Glaze charity – Ray Murray was grateful to receive the cheque.

We attended a Sausage and Mash lunch held in the Hi-Tide to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. I was amazed to learn that the Porthcawl branch had raised £320,000 for the charity since it was first formed in 1965. What an achievement!

We attended the AGM of the Royal British Legion, Porthcawl Branch, the Remembrance service held at the Bandstand in John Street, as well as the one held in All Saints Church and at the Cenotaph.

The attendances at both services were the largest ever seen in Porthcawl. Both services were extremely moving, even more so because of the many children who also came to pay their respects and to lay wreaths.

I was invited to a coffee morning in the Atlantic, which was organised by the Inner Wheel Club of Porthcawl to raise funds for local charities. I also opened the Christmas fayre, held in Fairways, organised by the Townswomen's Guild to raise funds to support the Diabetic Clinic in South Road. Both events were very successful and raised large amounts of money.

A quiz, held at the Brentwood, was organised by the Civic Fund to raise money for my mayoral charities –

Barnardo's, Tenovus and RNLI.

The quiz master was Mr Steve Maitland-Thomas, and it was supported by a number of local organisations, town councillors and other teams. Many thanks to everyone who came to lend their support.

We attended a meeting held by the YMCA to inform the many organisations present that their intention, when the renovations are complete, is to make the new building into a 'Community Hub'.

The ideas were very interesting indeed, as it was to hear about services that they are already providing for children as well as adults.

The Barnardo's lunch in Fairways went extremely well and the committee thanked me for choosing Barnardo's as one of my mayoral charities.

A meeting was held in Evergreen Hall, Bridgend, by the Samaritans to thank some of the councils, organisations, individuals and churches for supporting them over the previous twelve months.

A Christmas fayre held by Tenovus in Trinity Church Hall to raise funds for their charity had beautifully laid out stalls.

The Christmas dinner, held by Bridgend County Borough Mayor, Coun Chris Michaelides, at the Heronston was for his charities. The Master of Ceremonies was Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister and the guest speaker was Mr Michael Hall. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Despite the strong winds and rain, the Porthcawl Christmas event drew in a large crowd of people who were able to enjoy the stalls in the YMCA, the children's rides and the excellent entertainment provided, at the

bandstand, by bands and singers.

A gentleman, dressed as a Christmas tree, was on stilts and mingled with the crowd, to the delight of the children. They all braved the weather and deserve our praise and thanks.

A procession of dignitaries, including the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Chris Michaelides, my husband and myself, were joined by the remarkable Simon Richardson.

I was very honoured to greet Simon and the dignitaries. We all walked down John Street to greet Father Christmas at the bandstand and we greeted everyone there and wished them a very Merry Christmas.

It was a very successful day. A very big thank you to the town council clerk, clerk's assistant and the handyman for all their hard work.

'Broadway's Back', held at the Grand Pavilion, was absolutely superb. The talents and skills of the Broadway chorus, RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and guests Bridgend Youth Dance, Broadway Babes and the orchestra are outstanding, with some hilarious interventions and banter provided by Andrew Morgan, as a guest artist, and Michael Plowman, event co-ordinator. It was a wonderfully entertaining evening.

Before I conclude, my husband and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. I look forward, next month, to letting you know what took place over the Christmas period. Take care.

Coun Barbara Stubbs
Mayor of Porthcawl

A Victorian Christmas at Bryngarw

FRANCIS and Phineas, Victorian characters from Pick 'n' Mix Circus will be joining in the festive celebrations at Bryngarw House and Country Park in Brynmynyn, Bridgend on Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18 at the Victorian Christmas themed event between 10am-5pm.

During the weekend, Francis and Phineas will cast a warm Victorian glow over the proceedings by joining in the jolly japes and games and providing entertainment free of charge for the whole family to enjoy.

The programme will involve circus skills on the lawn in front of Bryngarw House including the opportunity to take part in the ancient skill of the famous oriental warrior weapon 'the diabolo'. Plus, don't miss out on experiencing the thrill of the low wire (safety equipment will be provided free of charge).

As well as the Victorian entertainers, families can enjoy an exciting array of traditional Victorian themed rides and stalls and the highlight of the festival is a visit from Father Christmas. He will be present from 11.15am-1.15pm on both days, meeting and greeting children and hearing their Christmas wishes.

Carol singing is open to all on Sunday.



Victorian entertainers with Christmas tree.

December 18 at 7.30pm, accompanied by a brass band and includes complimentary mulled wine and mince pies.

Admission and car parking is free all weekend, and tickets to the value of £1.50 are to be bought at the ticket booth and exchanged at the rides, stalls or food carts. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Visitors are advised to wear wellies or other suitable footwear as much of the Victorian Christmas will be taking place on the lawn. Please bring torches to walk to and from the car park.

Charity worker's nomination

A BRIDGEND communications worker for Diabetes UK Cymru has been named by industry magazine PR Week as one of the most talented young professionals under the age of 29 in the UK.

Former Cardiff University student Kerry-Lynne Pyke (27) has worked for the charity since June 2009.

She has led the charity's media work and awareness campaigns in Wales, generating more than 120 items of coverage in the media during a single month.

"She established a successful relationship

with Welsh Rugby Union, persuading players to provide quotes of support for campaigns and pose for promotional photographs.

"To mark World Diabetes Day 2010, she managed to get the Millennium Stadium lit up in blue," a spokesperson said.

Kerry-Lynne, who was nominated by DUKC director Dai Williams, said: "I'm delighted to have been nominated and selected for PR Week's 29 under 29 2011. More than 160,000 people are now diagnosed with diabetes in Wales and that number is increasing rapidly every year."

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

OGMORE Retired Residents' Association met at All Saints, Southerndown, on November 17 when Adrian and Mavis presented a film show narrated by Mavis on their travels around the countryside within 25 miles of Ogmores-Sea.

It took in the commemorative trees in St Brides Major, Bryngarw House, Craig-yr-Eos, Argoed Forest, Rhondda and the Rhigos old mine workings and lakes. The Newport Levels, Swansea Valley and the Maritime Marina also featured; it showed the flora and fauna and architectural subjects along the way.

A big thank you to them both for showing and sharing the beauty we have about us.

Wishing member Eric Jowett a speedy recovery

Tougher rules for sunbeds

TOUGHER rules have been introduced governing the use of sunbeds in Bridgend county borough.

The cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council has amended its scheme of delegations of functions to reflect changes in the law surrounding the use of sunbeds following the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (Wales) Regulations 2011.

Introduced by the Welsh Government after the 2009 announcement by the International Agency for Research on Cancer that sunbeds are carcinogenic to humans, and subsequent research from the Department of Health, Welsh Government and Cancer Research UK, which has shown that high numbers of young people use sunbeds, the regulations have added additional legal requirements to protect underage children and young people.

cover: ● The supervision of sunbed use at all sunbed businesses.

● The prescription of the health information that is to be displayed and made available to adults who may seek to use a sunbed.

● The prohibition of the provision or display of any material relating to health effects of sunbed use, other than material containing the health information prescribed.

● The provision and wearing of safe and appropriate protective eyewear for adults.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The council's public protection team will take the additional requirements into account when inspecting businesses which offer sunbed services, or carrying out 'test purchasing' exercises designed to protect underage children and young people."

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 08)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Time	
	AM	M	PM	M
01 Thur	10.28	8.9	22.51	8.2
02 Fri	11.21	8.4	23.43	7.9
03 Sat			12.21	7.9
04 Sun	00.55	7.7	13.29	7.8
05 Mon	01.57	7.7	14.35	7.9
06 Tues	03.09	8.1	15.31	8.4
07 Wed	04.03	8.5	16.22	8.7
08 Thur	04.44	8.8	17.05	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Fair treatment for Porthcawl?

REFER to a meeting of the County Borough Council (BCBC) on November 16.

Coun L Morgan, in response to a clearly 'planted' question by one of his colleagues, sought to justify the spending of £600,000 on the refurbishment of Maesteg swimming pool by providing evidence as to its use; thereby meeting the BCBC strategic theme of prioritising healthy living through physical activity at local authority sports and leisure centres.

Unsurprisingly, a wealth of figures showing use of the pool was supplied to justify the refurbishment for the

benefit of the residents of the Llynfi Valley.

In response, I asked him to explain how he intended to improve on this prioritised theme of healthy living in relation to similar facilities available to the residents of Porthcawl.

He answered that his administration was doing all it could to encourage developers to provide leisure facilities during the regeneration of Porthcawl.

So it's private money for Porthcawl during economic downturn – but taxpayers' money for all other areas of the borough.

That's fair. Isn't it?

Coun Ken Watts, Newton

ABERKENFIG ATC NEEDS TRUSTEES

I AM chairperson of 2318 (Aberkenfig) Sq of the Air Cadets. The Air Training Corps (ATC) is a national organisation for young people aged between 13 and 20, established in 1941 and there are nearly 1,000 squadrons divided into 36 wings, split into six regions.

2318 (Aberkenfig) squadron is one such unit working with young people in a socially deprived area in Bridgend, south Wales.

We aim to produce enthusiastic and thoughtful young men and women who will strive to succeed in whatever walk of life they choose

– to encourage a practical interest in aviation and the RAF; provide training that will be useful within the ATC and civilian life; and foster a spirit of adventure, while developing qualities of leadership and adventure; 2318 squadron's AGM is at 7.30 pm on February 7, and we would like to recruit new trustees to the board of our charity.

There is a need for us to have a committed and diverse board of trustees to act as the guardians of our ultimate aims.

Trustees are unpaid, but the commitment is not onerous and the job is very satisfying and brings with it the chance to learn new skills.

Stuart Morgan, Swansea.

'Invaded flat' – court told COMMUNITY ORDER FOR MAESTEG MAN

A YOUNG man who "invaded" a flat has been sentenced to a community order for a year at Cardiff Crown Court which involves carrying out 200 hours unpaid work.

Scott Davies (20) of Cymmer Road, Maesteg, who had no previous convictions, was also ordered to pay costs of £500.

He pleaded guilty to entering a flat situated above a public house at High Street, Nantyllyn.

Recorder Daniel Williams said entry to the flat was through a hole in the ceiling.

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

"You said that if you knew it had been a family home, you would not have committed the offence," added the Recorder.

He said that Davies had invaded someone's property and that a second conviction for such an offence would result in a custodial sentence.

Prosecutor David Thomas said that Mr Zhihua Zaho went on holiday in June. When he and his family returned, they found the flat had been burgled.

"An untidy search was made, and there were items on the floor," he said.

Fingerprints of the defendant were found and there were also five other sets of fingerprints of unidentified persons.

"It is accepted that others are involved, not just Davies," said Mr Thomas.

He told the police he had taken only three packs of tiles and a bag of plaster.

His counsel, Meirion Davies, said: "He is working as a roofer and he is unlikely to repeat this experience. He has been worried about it for a very long time."

BRIDGEND THEATRE STUDENTS HELP OUT CHILDREN IN NEED



Students get into the spirit by dressing up and donating to the Children in Need charity.

Tories target Carwyn over wind farm issue

CONSERVATIVES in Bridgend are targeting Carwyn Jones on the issue of wind farms – an issue they believe is the First Minister's 'Achilles heel'.

There was much heated debate some years ago when a wind farm was proposed at Scarweather Sands – close to Porthcawl – and now the attention is switching to the Atlantic Array, a much larger windfarm but one that is further out in the Bristol Channel.

Suzi Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, asked First Minister Mr Jones about his views on how the Atlantic Array would affect marine wildlife, particularly the harbour porpoise which breeds along the south Wales coast.

Mrs Davies, who is opposing the plan because of the effect it will have on this particular species, asked if the Welsh Labour Government would be sharing concerns about the effect on harbour porpoises and other marine wildlife with the UK government, which will make the final decision on the application from RWE npower.

Mr Jones replied that they were pressing the UK government to devolve decision-making in this area to Cardiff.

"He is avoiding the question, avoiding the

by GEM reporters

issue," said Mrs Davies.

"Unfortunately, the AM for Bridgend has form on this. He abstained several years ago when the Scarweather Sands wind farm application came up at the Assembly.

"People in Porthcawl, who are his constituents, must be wondering if he will also refuse to commit on this much larger application."

However, the First Minister responded: "Suzi Davies knows full well that this is a matter for the UK Government, and she would do well to lobby her colleagues in London with her concerns, rather than pretending that this is a matter for the Welsh Government."

Suzi Davies said: "The final decision is a matter for the UK government, but surely it's time for Carwyn Jones to tell the people of the Bridgend constituency where he stands on this?"

"It was during his watch that the controversial Tan 8 policy, which designated huge swathes of land for wind farms, was approved. It's no wonder people are concerned."

The Atlantic Array wind farm would see between 188 and 417 turbines – each up to 800 feet high, built over 257 square miles in the Bristol Channel.

The wind farm would

stretch for 25 miles from south of Gower to south Pembrokeshire.

Suzi Davies has met members of the Porthcawl Environment Trust, which opposed the Scarweather Sands scheme.

Although granted planning consent, it never got its licence because the group took it to the European parliament, where it is still being considered.

She said: "They took action under the European Habitats Directive because of fears about the harbour porpoise."

"The habitat should be protected under European law as it is a breeding ground."

"Objectors claim that the pile-driving necessary to install the tur-

bines will burst the eardrums of all the cetaceans in the surrounding sea and, without their hearing, porpoises and dolphins will be unable to hunt and will starve.

"They rely on their sonar so they will suffer a slow and cruel death."

Mrs Davies, who is a lawyer, said that the problem with the Habitats Directive is that the UK government failed to properly transpose it into British law and has been ordered to do it again, which is taking time.

"I will be contacting Welsh Conservative Euro MP Kay Swinburne about what's happening in Europe on this matter," she added.

"We need to invoke EU legislation if necessary to protect these mammals."

Pressure checks

ON Saturday, December 3, Porthcawl Stroke Club will provide 'Know your Blood Pressure' sessions free of charge to the public, with no appointment needed.

The sessions will be carried out by qualified personnel at Trinity Church in Porthcawl town centre, opposite the police station from 10am-4pm.

"This is a preventative measure to allow people of all ages to be aware of how important a blood pressure reading can be. There are no actual systems or signs to let an individual know when there are serious risks to their health and wellbeing."

Last year, the event

dealt with 153 people; thankfully, only a few needed to make an appointment with a doctor. Pop in for a check-up at Trinity Church, as you do not want to be in the position where you realise that you have left it too late.

Once again, the Porthcawl Stroke Club would like to wish all the community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Anyone wishing to join the Porthcawl Stroke Club, should contact chairman Mr Keith Duggan on (01656) 773376 or committee member Mr Ray Cross on (01656) 782190.

BARBARA MATTHEWS (Porthcawl Stroke Club)

The enthusiastic students who dressed up with Stagecoach Principals, Helene and Rob Reynolds, as the Super Mario Brothers.



STAGECOACH Theatre Arts raised a fantastic £410.55 for the Children in Need appeal. Instead of wearing their usual Stagecoach uniform, students attended their classes dressed in fancy dress as a 'Famous Person or Famous Character'.

Eye clinic's Christmas hamper will help heroes



ABOVE: The hamper full of festive goodies.

STAFF at the eye clinic in the Princess of Wales Hospital are raffling a Christmas hamper to raise money for Help for Heroes.

Tickets are £1 a time, and the winner will be drawn on December 19.

Suzanne Jones, a healthcare support worker at the clinic, told The GEM: "It is

going well and the target is to raise £500.

"We would like to thank all the patients and members of staff who have bought tickets."

"Also, we are very grateful for the support we received from some local businesses, Aroma Coffee House, Celtic cameras, cavalli's Fish and Chip Shop, and Pizza Hut."

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Dire need for homeless beds in borough – says YMCA manager

THE future of a major organisation in Bridgend was the topic for discussion when two regional AMs visited the town's YMCA.

Lisa Gilchrist, the centre's general manager, met Suzy Davies and Byron Davies, Welsh Conservative Regional AMs for south Wales west.

She explained that the organisation had been through some ups and downs recently, culminating in a crisis last year when a plan to demolish their current building in Angel Street and replace it with a new state-of-the-art centre fell through at the last minute.

The current centre was built in 1960 as a temporary building, although the organisation has been going in Bridgend since 1898. It is autonomous and is responsible for raising its own funds.

Lisa reported that the organisation had been trying to redevelop its centre for many years because it was now outdated and expensive to run, but the site had been

blighted because the council designated it for a multi-storey car park. Nothing could be done until that blight was finally lifted.

The organisation had plans drawn up in 2007 in conjunction with two housing associations.

"It was an ambitious £3m scheme and we had a grant of £1.2m from the Assembly to provide a homeless hostel here on the site, along with new facilities for us," she explained.

"The rest of the money was being provided in the form of a mortgage and loans with a 90-year lease back from the housing associations."

The scheme, if it had proceeded, would have given the YMCA fabulous new facilities including a sprung floored dance studio, a martial arts dojo, various activity rooms and a coffee shop.

There would also have been 17 crisis accommodation beds which would have been operated by the housing associations.

Lisa said that there is a dire need for direct access accommodation for homeless

youngsters in the town: "We have none of these beds in the borough and I spend hours on the phone every week trying to get the homeless people who come to us for help into the hostel which Port Talbot YMCA runs," she said. "It would have been a godsend."

However, the whole scheme came crashing down in April 2010 when the agreement was due to be signed and both associations suddenly withdrew.

"They both pulled out at the last minute," said Lisa. "They had lost contracts and they simply did not have the funding for our scheme."

This sudden decision left Bridgend YMCA in dire circumstances: "We had invested every penny of ours into this scheme – getting the plans drawn and the building designed. We had no money to even pay our bills and wages."

"We were on the point of closing when we were offered the chance to sell the site to the Bridgend development Firm HD Ltd. They have given us a long lease back and a very fair rental

deal. They literally saved us from going under."

While all this was going on, staff were not paid for three months but remained loyal to the organisation.

"We now have a new board and we manage to generate enough income from activities and parking charges to cover our running costs."

Lisa explained that the YMCA faced an on-going problem with finding its core funding, as it did not attract grants from any bodies apart from £3,000 from BCBC.

"We are an organisation that works with people across the board," she said. "We do not focus on special interest groups like young-

sters with drugs or alcohol problems, for example – we deal with all youngsters and I think that's good."

"It means that young people with those issues or others can mix freely with people from different backgrounds. Otherwise, if they are only seeing other people with the same issues as themselves, they will begin to see that as the norm."

"But from a funding point

of view, we are being left behind because we are not ticking the right boxes. Unless society funds activities and facilities for the mainstream, we will end up with more young people who will be needing these specialist services."

She said that activities at Bridgend YMCA attract a wide age range from toddlers up to 90-year-olds.

"It's great. You can have children taking part in activities with their parents and grandparents. That encourages tolerance and means that young people learn to respect older people, while they are less intimidated by someone in a hoodie."

The organisation has been upgrading the existing centre as much as possible to ensure that it is warm, dry and water tight.

"We have tried to make it as attractive and homely as possible," added Lisa. "We are in an excellent position just on the edge of the town centre and we do not want to move further out, as many users come to us by bus. We also offer free car parking to users in the evening."

"Our user groups are now confident that we are staying and we have about a thousand people a week coming through our doors."

Both AMs were impressed with what is going on at the centre.

"I never imagined that this centre would be so busy," said Byron Davies. "It is literally a hive of activity and it is obviously a much needed and well used facility in Bridgend."

"It's a tragedy that the redevelopment plan fell through at the last minute leaving them in a desperate position but, thankfully, the situation was saved by a local firm and we must be grateful to them for that."

"I just hope that the YMCA and HD will be able to work together in the future to come up with a scheme which will be of mutual benefit but will protect the future of this very important organisation."

Suzy Davies commented that although it was a 50-year-old building, it still provided people of all ages in Bridgend with a very valuable resource.

"I was very surprised at how pleasant and cosy it is," she said.

"Lisa and her staff, both paid and voluntary, obviously work very hard to make the centre a warm and welcoming place."

"The name of the YMCA is established and highly trusted and it is no surprise that it remains determined to foster strong communities despite the age-old challenge of core funding."

"However, one of the YMCA's gifts to its users is the example of triumph over adversity and the message it needs to get out is that this centre is very much up and running."

"It has overcome its difficulties and is facing the future with new confidence."

"We will take up the issue of core funding that Lisa raised with us. Money is tight but targeting specific groups sometimes works to the detriment of others, which provide activities and facilities for the vast majority," the AM promised.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP with AJ SICLUNA

Man (25) is jailed for underage sex offence

A PENCOED man has been jailed for three-and-a-half years at Cardiff Crown Court for having sex with an underage girl, and falsely imprisoning her.

Daniel Duggan (25) of Heol Ewenny, who has

no previous convictions, admitted sexual activity with a child and false imprisonment.

Said Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones: "I fully accept intercourse was with her consent, but you knew she was 15. It was unprotected sex."

Prosecutor Jonathan

Man's six-month jail sentence

WHEN violence erupted in Llantwit Major town square one night in June, a 23-year-old man delivered a single punch which knocked out his victim, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Robert Carter (23) of Chapel Close, St Athan, was jailed for six months after pleading guilty to wounding Dean Kayes.

Said Judge Stephen Hopkins: "Fighting broke out, fuelled by alcohol. Without any warning or provocation, you delivered a punch of significant force which knocked Mr Kayes off his feet and knocked him out."

"He suffered very nasty injuries. This was deliberate violence yet again in one of our towns or cities."

"For no good reason you involved yourself with a victim you didn't even know. It's clear you have a short fuse and a nasty streak when you've been drinking."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on the night of June 11, there was a melee and a fracas in Llantwit Major town square.

Mr Kayes became involved with another man, but Carter ran at them and in five seconds punched Mr Kayes with a single blow to the side of the head.

He fell to the ground bleeding, and at one point was kicked. He remembers nothing of the incident, and he came to in the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Mr Greenwood said he suffered injuries which needed 10 stitches.

When arrested, Carter said he had been drinking throughout the day.

Earlier, he said, someone had been staring at him and his girlfriend had been pushed.

He said he threw the punch to defend a friend.

His counsel, James Evans, said: "He was misguided doing what he did. The offence was towards the lower end of the scale."

Bushell said Duggan had met the girl over the internet. Three weeks later, they had sex about two to three times a week.

"He knew her age from the outset," said Mr Bushell.

The girl told her mother Duggan was 17. In August, the girl ended the relationship, but he tried to contact her, making 200 calls to her mobile phone.

She later agreed to meet him, and when she got into his car, he drove off reaching speeds of up to 70 mph in built-up areas, and making threats. At one point, he threatened to end his life.

Mr Bushell said he lost control of the car in Bryncethin. The girl, who was frightened and distressed, was allowed to leave the vehicle.

Duggan told the police she had been "in pieces" and he apologised.

John Ryan, defending, said: "He has written a letter to the court expressing his extreme remorse."

"He is a loyal friend to many, selfless to people in need. This offence was utterly out of character."

"In many ways, for a 25-year-old he is immature. When he drove as he did, he was in a desperate state."

The judge made a restraining order preventing him contacting the girl and he was disqualified from working with children and ordered to register as a sex offender for life.

BRYNCETHIN HEROIN DEALER IS JAILED FOR FIVE YEARS

A HEROIN dealer has been jailed for five years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones told 30-year-old James Watkins: "The other day, I sentenced a man for drugs offences. I described heroin as a cancer in our society."

"You are an illustration of the effect someone who distributes heroin has. You contributed to your own downfall, and that of others as well."

Watkins, of Highland Avenue, Bryncethin, admitted possessing heroin with intent to supply. He was also committed to sentence by Vale Magistrates for possessing heroin with intent to supply, and possessing heroin.

Prosecutor John Ryan said that on August 9, police went to an address in Bridgend where Watkins was, and found heroin worth £370 on the premises. There was also drugs parapherna-

lia and cash.

In the living room were traces of heroin, and heroin was found on the carpet.

On March 15, police searched a premises in Brackla, and Watkins had on him a package containing heroin with a street value of £3,500.

In November last year, Mr Ryan said the police went to the cells complex in Cardiff Crown Court and when he was searched, Watkins had a package containing heroin.

His counsel, Kevin Seal, said: "He has been taking heroin since the age of 18, and in the last couple of years it's got out of control."

"He just could not stop taking heroin. He could not afford it, and so he sold to others."

"Fortunately, he is now completely drugs-free, for the first time in a decade. He realises he's let everyone down. Heroin ravaged his life."

Two years' jail for heroin dealer caught in Wildmill

AN undercover police operation in Bridgend with the object of ridding the town of heroin dealers, has resulted in a man being jailed for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Steven Hatch (35) of no fixed address, had been convicted by Vale Magistrates of supplying heroin and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said the police carried out Operation Hutton in an effort to prevent the sale

of drugs in Bridgend.

On January 31, an undercover police officer met Hatch and suggested they meet up and asked if there was any heroin for sale. At one point, Hatch bought a bottle of vodka and shared it with the officer.

Later, in the Wildmill area, the officer handed over £10 for a small amount of heroin.

Hatch said: "Sit down, we'll have a couple of lines now."

Christopher Rees, defending, said: "This case is as close to entrapment as you can get. The officer was like a limpet with the defendant, who

is a hopeless drug addict and even saw him drink half a bottle of vodka."

"The police caught a tiddler, rather than a big fish. Hatch was merely a conduit, and the officer knew he was desperate for drugs."

Judge Stephen Hopkins warned him that if he committed another drugs offence, he would be liable to serve seven years in prison.

"This case shows you are willing to supply class A drugs to another. Heroin and cocaine are not only highly addictive, but they lead to a life of misery and degradation."

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find good homes for dogs at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Friendly Mac needs a home for Christmas

THIS WEEK: MAC is a four-year-old Westie, who has come to Dogs Trust through no fault of his own.

He is a very sweet, friendly little dog, who has been used to being a companion.

He gets on well with other dogs, and would happily live with another dog.

He would love to have a fire to curl up in front of, and perhaps a stocking to open on Christmas morning!

If you are thinking of offering a home to a dog, please pop up to visit us – we have lots of different types and breeds of dogs, and



ABOVE: Friendly MAC.

would love to help you find your perfect furry friend.

There is still time to let a lovely dog spend his first Christmas with you!

LINDA FEAGAN

BIG SCREEN

BIG Screen's Christmas presentation this year is the seasonal family favourite It's a Wonderful Life (U) which will be shown on Thursday, December 8 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

It stars James Stewart as depressed businessman George Bailey and Donna Reed as his wife.

Contemplating suicide after the loss of a considerable amount of money, George and his family are rescued by Clarence (Henry Travers), a compassionate angel.

Big Screen's Christmas present to its faithful audience is a free mince pie and a glass of wine, as well as the usual ice creams.

Doors open at 7.10pm and tickets are £3 (in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door, subject to availability).

Maesteg chef through to national final cook-off

A SOUS chef at the Ffresch Restaurant in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff moved a step closer to the coveted National Chef of Wales title by winning the south Wales regional final on Tuesday.

Ryan Jones, 28, from Maesteg, beat three other chefs to claim the regional honour and is now looking forward to a Valentine's Day cook-off at the Welsh International Culinary Championships at Coleg Llandrillo Cymru, Rhos on Sea next year.

His winning menu opened with pan-fried brill, oxtail cherries and white truffle, followed by a main course of breast of Madgett's Farm duck with fondant potato, salsify, butternut squash, duck leg and liver faggot. Dessert

was bitter chocolate mousse and passion fruit.

"I was confident that what I had cooked was good, but I was still surprised to win," said a modest Ryan, who was making his debut in the competition.

"I have wanted to enter this competition for years as my former pastry lecturer Doug Windsor is a past winner and I have worked with members of the Welsh National Culinary Team. Hopefully, I can now go on and win the competition."

He beat 2010 finalist James Hamilton, head chef at Fairyhill Hotel, Reynoldston Gower, Swansea; former Welsh National Culinary Team pastry chef Karl Jones-Hughes, head chef at Hotel Plas Hyfryd, Narberth, and John Quill, owner of J. Q. Catering Services, Whitchurch, Cardiff, in the regional final held at Cardiff and Vale



Ryan Jones receives his south Wales Chef of the Year award from judges Graham Tinsley (on left) and Colin Gray.

College.

The beaten regional finalists must now wait until after the North Wales regional final at Deeside College, Connah's Quay on Thursday to discover if any of them qualify as the two best runners up for the February 14 cook-off.

Apart from the coveted national title, £3,000 prize money is on offer in the contest, the winner receiving £2,000 and runner up £1,000.

The competition is

organised by the Welsh Culinary Association and sponsored jointly by the Welsh Government, Unilever Food Solutions and Hybu Cig Cymru / Meat Promotion Wales.

The north Wales regional finalists are: Chris Owen, sous chef at The Castle Hotel, Conwy, who is currently appearing on BBC 2's 'Masterchef: The Professionals' series; 2008 finalist Gerwyn Williams, chef owner of Y Tanerdy, Llanrwst; Martin East, head chef

at Hendre Coed Isaf, Llanaber, Barmouth; Robert Brown, acting head chef at Oriol House, St Asaph and Jonathan Reed, senior chef de partie at the Royal Sportsman Hotel, Porthmadog.

Chefs are challenged to devise their own creative menu for a three-course dinner for four, including some of Wales 'True Taste' winning products.

They are given a three hour window in which to create the dinner.

Porthcawl author's new stories are set on the global stage

'ALMOST AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY'
SAYS ROBERT MINHINNICK

After several volumes of poetry and a novel, Robert Minhinnick's first collection of short stories has just been published by Seren Books.

The volume - *The Keys of Babylon* - follows the lives of travellers who visit the UK and USA in search of a better life.

Thus, there are stories set in London, New York, Los Angeles, as well as all over Europe.

But as he is based in Porthcawl, it is fitting that the resort should feature prominently in the book.

The book is the culmination of Minhinnick's major 'Creative Wales' grant from the Arts Council of Wales.

He said: "Completing this collection and seeing it through the press has been a huge undertaking. I am delighted that the Arts Council supported my project, and believe it is a real step forward in my work."

"My writing has always been political, but I believe these 25 stories are also credible and highly dramatic, whether set in Bridgend or Brazil,



ABOVE: Porthcawl author Robert Minhinnick's new book is out in time for the Christmas market.

Newton or New York.

"They are based on my own life as a travelling writer and editor. In some ways, *The Keys of Babylon* is an autobiography."

Minhinnick has just returned from literary and political events in India, appearing at the Hay Festival in Kerala.

He said: "At 300 pages, *The Keys of*

Babylon offers tremendous value for £8.99."

It is available from all good book shops, including SUSSER in Porthcawl, of which Robert Minhinnick is a director.

"The book is his first publication since *Fairground Music: The World of Porthcawl* (Gomer), published in 2010. PI

Colwinston fayre

ST DAVID'S Church in Wales School, Colwinston, holds its Christmas fayre on Friday, December 2 from 3.30pm - 6pm at Colwinston Village Hall.

Christmas gifts, stalls, children's activities, refreshments, festive plants and wreaths.

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BRIDGEND CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON DRAWS CROWDS OF EXCITED YOUNGSTERS

FATHER CHRISTMAS, excited children, carols and festive lights – Bridgend's big Christmas 'switch-on' which took place on November 26 had it all.

As you can see from Randall John's images of the event, the youngsters arrived in good time for the lighting of the illuminations, and they were thrilled by the sight of them against the night sky.

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDALL JOHN



Prints and images scoop awards in competition

PYLE and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its first open competitions on November 24 at The Rest in Porthcawl.

One competition was for prints and the other for projected images, and the image with the highest mark in each section was the winner.

Mike Davies, who not only awarded the points for each image, but also provided an excellent critique on each, along with some suggestions for improvement, judged both competitions.

The winner of the print competition was Richard Craze with 'Railings', closely followed by David Jones with 'Tomato Sauce' in second place, and Glyn Edmunds with 'What's



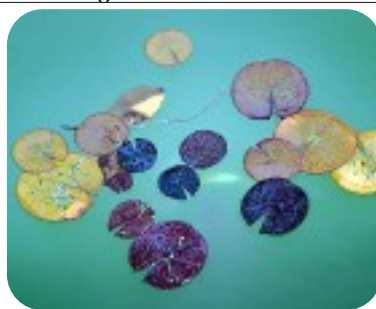
ABOVE: And the winner is...

wrong with eating onions' in third place, and Richard's 'Autumn's on the way' also getting 18 points.

The winner of the projected image competition was again Richard Craze with 'Dyffryn Water Lilies', closely followed by Trevor Owen with 'Hard Working Hands in second place, and Mel Newberry with 'Dancing Flames' in third place,

with Glyn Edmunds' 'Path to the Mountains', Martyn Derbyshire's 'Window Shopping', Marilyn Belojica's 'Evening Natter' and Richard's 'Spring Growth' also gained 18 points.

Congratulations to Richard, and a big thank you to all who participated, for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening. **GE**



Dyffryn Water Lilies by Richard Craze.



Richard Craze's Railings.

News from Coity WI

AFTER the success of the fundraising 'Ploughman's Supper' Coity WI members were mortified to discover that Karen and Ian Coles of Groes Stores, Coity, had inadvertently been omitted from the thank you list.

A very big thank you, then, and an apology, to Karen and Ian; your gift of wine was appreciated and contributed to the very satisfying sum raised.

The September meeting was chaired by vice-president Ann Mutton, who welcomed president Mary Poland back after her recent operation, and introduced the speaker for the evening, Wendy Derrick.

Wendy supports El Shaddai, a charitable trust which helps needy children in Goa.

Here, children with families are helped through outreach support, homeless children are cared for, and teenagers given a safe place to develop life skills.

Wendy sums up their work as "giving childhood to children who never had it".

Her love for the work and enthusiasm for the projects was clear for all to see, and made a deep impression on her listeners.

The GFWI craft spectacular, held at Cowbridge, was a great

success and Coity was well represented with a variety of crafts and skills on display.

Some members made a trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. It meant an early start to the day, but these intrepid ladies showed themselves equal to the challenge.

On arrival, they enjoyed a guided tour of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, and were impressed by the sense of history they experienced in the ancient Westminster Hall.

They were left with a lasting impression of the light of chandeliers falling on paintings and

old stone walls. Some ladies followed this with a ride on the London Eye, while others visited Westminster Cathedral or walked in St James' Park. The successful day closed with time to take in the Monet-like view from Westminster Bridge, before leaving for home.

The next meeting (at the time of going to press) will be December 14, when the speaker will be Mrs Anna Harries.

The theme will be 'Christmas is Coming', meet at Coity Church Hall at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome.

21 PUPPIES DESPERATE FOR A HOME!

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are appealing for people to come forward with offers of homes for 21 puppies – in order to make room for many other dogs waiting to come in before the busy Christmas period when many dogs bought as presents become the victims of 'festive fatigue'.

The puppies have come in as unwanted litters and some have been born on site – all are desperate to swap kennel life for loving new homes.

Said Beverley Price,

Rehoming Centre Manager: "We would like to see them settled in loving, lasting homes as quickly as possible so that they get used to experiencing life as they should. We are busier than ever and need to free up much needed kennel space, particularly for emergencies."

If you are interested in rehoming any of these puppies, call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219 or Dogs Trust Leeds on 0113 281 4920.

Quiz League round-up

ON November 21, Llangewydd Arms reached their 'usual' 50 mark: Laleston Inn 'A' were on the receiving end and did well to keep it down to a 54-38 defeat.

Tyrisha Nomads had a commendable score when they beat a good Crown Inn 'A' team by 49-40.

Mackworth Arms did all right, winning 44-34 versus Cabo Roche who haven't notched a win yet this season, and Tyrisha Royals had a surprisingly low score to lose at the Six Bells by 37-32, possibly due to player shortage.

In Division 2, Tondou

Railway Club's 100 per cent record remains intact as they rode roughshod over Pheasant Gamekeepers for a 58-36 victory.

Pheasant Poachers also have a perfect League record this season but are in second spot as they have played one game less than Tondou. Away to Oldcastle 'B', they won 39-30.

Coychurch Wanderers managed a short-head win away to Crown Inn 'B' to win 42-40, and Laleston Inn 'B' took the points from Greenmeadow who were unable to make an appearance.

Here are your specials:
1 Arthur Thistlewood was a leading figure in

which 19th century plot to assassinate British cabinet ministers?

2 Which position did Caiaphas hold in Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion of Christ?

3 In 1990, which unfashionable club reached the Football League Cup Final and FA Cup semi-final?

4 A bronze statue of which post-war British Prime Minister stands outside Huddersfield Railway station?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1 Harold Wilson.
2 Oldham Athletic.
3 2 High Priest.
4 Cato St Conspiracy.

NEWS FROM THE PENCOED WI

Across Canada by motorbike for charity...

DR HELLIWELL was the speaker at the meeting on November 8; he had travelled more than 9,000 miles on a motorcycle called 'Lucy' across parts of Canada and had wonderful pictures to show and many anecdotes of his journey to relate.

He was raising money for the Marie Curie charity.

The meeting was tinged with sadness, as our excellent correspondence secretary Ann Watts told us she was moving back to Wiltshire and we all wish her and her husband Graham all the best in their new home.

Diane Reynolds, our exceptional craft club leader, is unable to continue with the club.

Multi-talented Diane has, over the past few years, inspired us all into trying and mastering new crafts. We would like to say thank you to both ladies.

Our first meeting of 2012 is on January 10, when the speaker will be from Porthcawl Lifeboats.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information, contact 01656 862181 or 01656 860219.

Pat Phillips (Press secretary)

Bridge results

THE RESULTS for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings were: November 23 – First, Mary Moore and John Beard; second, Joan Jenkins and Tim Barsby; third, Mike Best and Liam Sheridan.

November 25 – First, Mari Jones and Irene Wickham; second, Norma and David

Newman; third, Ray Smith and Irene Thomas.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm in Nolton church hall, there are now lessons for beginners on Wednesdays at 2.30pm and improvers on Fridays at 7.30pm.

You can now read your GEM online - just visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk and register free of charge!

To find out more visit www.bboxesandbusts.co.uk, call 01446 781139 or visit our stand at the Craft Fair at Style Gardens in December

Llangan church at centre of a medieval mystery as skeletons are discovered

A small church, just a few miles from Cowbridge, is awaiting the results of a fascinating archaeological find.

St Canna's Church is an early medieval building standing on the edge of Llangan village – but unknown to the many people who have worshipped there over the centuries, it has hidden an intriguing secret.

Renovation work was required recently on the 'Old Schoolroom', a lean-to structure on the side of the church.

It was falling into disrepair and because refurbishment required drainage and underpinning works, an excavation had to take place in the northern part of the churchyard before that work began.

Mr David Reed, a member of the management group for the Old Schoolroom project, told The GEM: "When the archaeologists began, they had literally got through the topsoil to the

clay when they exclaimed: 'Oh what's that?'"

The small team of archaeologists had found the pelvis of a woman.

"At least we think it was woman," said David. "There were eight or nine skeletons or partial remains – shroud burials without coffins."

Some skeletons were buried on top of others.

"One was buried face down, with the legs bent over which has led to speculation that the person was a blasphemer or a thief."

Only two objects were recovered alongside the bones – a pottery ring, which was used as a weight for spinning wool and a Roman coin. Nothing else.

Despite the presence of the coin, the skeletons don't date back to the Roman era.

Mr Gareth Williams, another member of the Old Schoolroom group, explained: "The archaeologists determined that they were late medieval bones and at this stage

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

they are being analysed *pro bono* at Birbeck College, London.

"The results are due next summer. The skeletons will then be reburied."

Mr Reed said: "At one time, we had four archaeologists working on the site. It was carried out by hand."

One archaeologist was so excited by the news at St Canna's that he left work at the Roman fort of Nidum (Neath) to visit the church site.

The conundrum faced by archaeologists now is to try and put some sort of identity to the people. Were they locals, pilgrims or an entirely different group of travellers?

The community of Llangan stands on the old pilgrims' route to St David's in west Wales.

If lead is found in the bones, it will indicate they were people from the local area, as there are Roman lead mines nearby.

The eight or nine people included men, women, and a baby.

When the results are revealed, they may give rise to fascinating conjecture on the lives led by the people buried on the north side of St Canna's.

The Vale is becoming a medieval treasure trove. It is the second major historical discovery in the past few years.

In 2008, architects at Saint Cadoc's Church, Llancafarn, found medieval paintings, including one of St George, concealed beneath whitewash.

Once the archaeological dig was completed, work was able to go ahead on the Old Schoolroom.

Mr Reed said: "It is now renovated with a disabled toilet, rainwater harvest, a gallery kitchen, and is a community meeting room for 30 people."

"There's a lovely feeling to it – it's part of the church, peaceful, tranquil, bright, light and welcoming."

For Llangan, which

has no pub or post office, the Old Schoolroom is seen as "the warm heart of the village".

Funding has come mainly from the Communities Facilities and Activities Programme, but also from the Welsh Church Act Fund.

Mr Gareth Williams added: "The management group of Liz Matthews, Annie Williams, Joanna Melville and David Reed, will be delighted to respond to any queries or bookings in connections with the Old Schoolroom."

The opening of the new facility will be celebrated at a service on December 4 at 3pm, when the Archbishop of Wales, Reverend Barry Morgan, will join the congregation.

On December 10 (10am-12noon) people can view the facilities

For information on the Old Schoolroom, please go to: <http://www.old-schoolroom.org.uk/>

Local school wins film-making prize



PICTURED: pupils from the school media club, with club coordinator Mrs Cathy Jenkins and Mrs O'Donnell from 'Media for Schools.'

THE media club of St Brides Major the top three in that category and C/W Primary School have been awarded a well-deserved first prize in the 'Media for Schools Awards 2011.'

The school were awarded first prize in the 'best edited film' category. They also had another film in

Headteacher Clare Matthews is most proud of the children, who were supported by club coordinator Mrs Cathy Jenkins.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Unsung hero
ALUN HODGES is chairman of Maesteg Town Hall management committee, a voluntary organisation that works hard to maintain the building and provide finances for the staff.

He is also team manager, not only for the Welsh bowls squad to take part in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014, but also for the world championships in Auckland, New Zealand in 2016.

He has been musical director of Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir since 1990; he was responsible for the choir winning the South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod in 1995 at Porthcawl and the Welsh National Eisteddfod in 1996 at Llandeilo.

Skill centre
ACT Bridgend Skill Centre, Noltan Street, Bridgend holds an open day on Friday, December 9 between 10am and 3pm for youngsters aged 16-18.

ACT offers routes into training schemes for automotive engineering; children's care, learning and development; customer service; hairdressing; health and social care; IT; retail.

Young surfers
LAST Saturday, I had the pleasure of listening to auditions for singers aged 18-25 in the Bridgend young singer's competition at Maesteg town hall, organised by Maesteg

Gleemen male voice choir.

Adjudicators Beverly Humphreys (mezzo-soprano), Alun Hodges (musical director) and Suzanne Hodges (accompanist) spent a number of hours deliberating before naming the finalists.

In the end, the following were chosen: Eirlys Myfanwy Davies, a 23-year-old mezzo-soprano from Carmarthen; Rosanne Davies, 25-year-old soprano from Cardiff; Gerallt Rhys Jones (19) counter tenor from Machynlleth; Bethan Langford (22) mezzo-soprano from Shropshire; Joshua Mills (22) tenor from Neath.

Reserve: Menna Cazel Davies (22) soprano from Pontypridd.

The finals in Maesteg town hall on January 28, 2012, will include junior competitors: Lauren Coates (Bryntirion comprehensive school); Connie Osgood-Fisher (Archbishop McGrath RC comprehensive school); Emily Hunt (Bryntirion comprehensive school); Amy Leigh Thomas (Maesteg comprehensive school).

From the senior section: Sophie Howe (Porthcawl comprehensive school); Harmony Miller (Porthcawl comprehensive school); Sebastian Waters (Archbishop McGrath RC comprehensive school).

Reserve: Megan Eleri Griffiths (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari).

The organisers thanked Ryan Wood,

who stood in as the accompanist for the last moment as the designated accompanist was unwell.

Festive films
HOREB Baptist Chapel, Nantymoel, is showing Christmas family film nights at 6pm.

Tonight, Thursday (December 1) it will be the 'Nativity Story' beginning at 6pm and on December 8, the film will be 'Christmas with a Capital C'.

For further information, contact Pastor Chris Bluto on 01443 675424.

Brackla concert
B R A C K L A Community Centre will hold a Christmas concert on Friday, December 2, with Brackla community choir and Tremains primary school choir.

The concert starts at 7.15pm and tickets will be available at the door (£4).

Head's thanks
OGMORE Vale primary school headteacher Mrs J Morgan thanks everyone who supported the recent 'Children in Need' request for aid. The school raised the magnificent total of £240.

Parent evenings will be held on December 5-6 between 3pm 6pm, except for Mrs M c r f i e l d / M r s Mallinson's class which will be on December 6-7.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tnycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



A writing roadshow will display work from children across the age ranges to help raise parents' awareness and will be of particular interest to parents of children in year-2 and year-6.

The following years will be holding their Christmas concerts at the school on the following dates: Early years on December 6 at 10.30am; KS1 and KS2 on December 7-8 at 10.30am.

Tomorrow, Friday, December 2 is an inset day and the school will be closed to the children.

Well run!
TYNYRHEOL primary school, Llangenor pupils represented the school in the Bridgend primary school cross-country race recently held at Porthcawl comprehensive.

They were Amber Croale, Carl Danter, Ioan Davies, Kai Lewis, Mia Lewis, Jake Whitefield and Tyler Williams – who all completed the course – with Ioan Davies taking fourth place in the year 5/6 group of boys.

Headteacher Martin Griffiths has thanked all who came to the school's Christmas fayre last week; which raised £1,209.17 towards school funds.

This will enable the school to purchase new equipment for the school playground, and also part fund Christmas school trips.

Church events
ST CIEN'S church, Llangenor presents a Christmas concert at the church on Sunday, December 4 at 6pm.

The Cór Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) will be providing the entertainment. Tickets cost £30 and there will be mulled wine and mince pies available in the Llangenor Arms at the end of the concert.

Everyone welcome.

Church fair
ALL Saint's church, Pen-y-Fai will be holding its Christmas fair in the Pen-y-Fai Church of England primary school hall on Saturday, December 3 at 2pm.

There will be a large number of stalls which gives everyone a chance to obtain Christmas presents, everyone is most welcome.

Pen-y-Fai WI PRESIDENT
Jean Griffiths opened the meeting and commented on the recent trip to London, when more than 40 members and guests took part.

The coach took them on a sightseeing tour of London before depositing them at the Copthorne Hotel in Kensington. They were taken to the Royal Albert Hall for the Classical Spectacular concert.

Next day, they were taken to a Christmas German market, and Windsor for some sight-seeing.

Chris Phillips, the secretary, reminded members about the Women's Institute carol concert taking place on Monday, December 5 in Brangwyn Hall, Swansea when 14 members will be taking part.

She also stated that the Women's Institute will be raising the annual subscription in January 2012

to £31.50.

The Christmas dinner would be held in the Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl in January.

Members joined a workshop showing to make Christmas decorations.

The next meeting on December 19 in Pen-y-Fai Church of England primary school hall will be a Christmas party – members are keeping their fingers crossed, as in the last two years it has been cancelled because of weather conditions.

Carol concert
LAST Friday, I had the pleasure of attending an event organised by the Salvation Army in Maesteg comprehensive school.

It was so well attended that extra rows of seating had to be provided and the concert started with a trumpet fanfare by teenager Harvey Rees.

Salvationist Wayne Forwood welcomed everyone and the audience joined in community carol singing.

Following a reading from Luke, chapter 2 verses 1-7 in English and Welsh by pupils from the schools year 7, Maesteg children's choir, under musical director Sian Enid Hughes accompanied by Ryan Wood, then sang a number of carols.

There was an appeal for Christmas presents for needy children in the area by Julie John of the West Glamorgan council on alcohol and drug abuse, who confirmed that in the last three months they had received

200 referrals, of which approximately 25 per cent came from the Maesteg area.

After another reading in English and Welsh by pupils in year-12 and the carol 'While shepherds watched', came 'Noteworthy' mixed voice choir directed by Ryan Wood and accompanied by Rhian Jenkins who sang several international carols.

These were followed by another reading in English and Welsh by pupils from year-8 and the Salvation Army band then played a number of popular tunes.

Harpists Benjamin Isaac ('Allegro from Sonatina') and Nathan Isaacs ('Quatre preludes') preceded another reading in English and Welsh and the audience enthusiastically sang 'Hark the herald angels sing'.

Noteworthy returned on stage with 'Snow' and 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' and sang 'O little town of Bethlehem' before Maesteg children's choir returned with 'Carol of the children' and 'The best Christmas of all'.

Then on stage came the real stars of the evening, the Garth junior school, directed by Amy Walker with the school's version of the Nativity, and what a performance!

The pupils' narration and choral efforts were outstanding, and the audience rose to its feet and clapped and cheered the youngsters. I cannot praise them enough.

'WANTED POSTERS WERE CIRCULATED' 'Flying Vet harassed forensic psychiatrist' – court is told

A CONSULTANT forensic psychiatrist has told a hearing at Cardiff Magistrates Court that he felt "uncomfortable and unsafe" when a former patient began circulating posters of him with a photograph, stating that he was "wanted, dead or alive".

The man alleged to be responsible, Vale 'Flying Vet', Maurice Kirk, was heard in a pub offering £30,000 for the address of Dr Tegwyn Williams.

Mr Kirk (66), formerly of St Donats, who

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

now lives in Brittany, has pleaded not guilty to harassing Dr Williams.

Prosecutor Gareth Evans claims that Mr Kirk subjected Dr Williams to several courses of conduct when harassing him – including sending him such posters, having them on the side of his Land Rover in the centre of Barry, and displaying the posters on his website.

At the start of the proceedings this week, Mr Kirk stood in the dock using crutches.

At one point, he asked: "When can I have my legal papers?"

District Judge John Charles, told him to be quiet. He said: "Be quiet, or you will leave the courtroom."

Mr Kirk then requested bail.

Dr Williams said in evidence that he was the director of the Caswell Clinic, Bridgend, and had known Mr Kirk for two years.

In July, he said, he was sent the "wanted dead or alive" poster. The poster also said there would be a reward for information about Dr Williams, with a contact address and Mr Kirk's telephone number.

Said Dr Williams: "I am aware the posters were disseminated in Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan, and the Bristol and Bridgend areas."

He added: "They make me feel extremely uncomfortable and unsafe."

"This is because someone who clearly has powerful negative feelings against me has tried to track down my address."

He said the posters interfered with his ability to do his job and he had

been advised not to go to the clinic because of Mr Kirk's behaviour, which meant he could not see his patients.

Dr Williams said he had been qualified for 20 years, and in the past had psychiatrically assessed Mr Kirk, and Mr Kirk had disagreed with his conclusions.

On five occasions, he said, he had provided Mr Kirk with his medical records.

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Lammerton, said that on July 1, he saw a red Land Rover parked in King Square, Barry, and on it were posters indicating that Dr Williams was 'wanted' and another poster referred to Barbara Wilding, a former Chief Constable of South Wales.

Mr Kirk, he said, was sitting in the front of the vehicle.

A social worker at the Caswell Clinic, Amanda Watkins, said that on August 16, she went to the Plough and Harrow pub in Monknash and outside saw posters of Dr Williams.

"I took one because I was concerned," she

said. On August 24, she said she went to the same pub with friends where she saw Mr Kirk offering customers £10,000 for the address of Dr Williams.

"People just ignored him," she said. But, she added, as the evening progressed he "upped the amount of the reward" to £30,000.

"Again, no-one took any notice of him," she said.

(THE CASE CONTINUES)

Strike hits schools and libraries in Bridgend county

THE strike over public sector pensions yesterday (November 30) hit schools in the borough, with 85 per cent closing.

Out of a total of 68 primary and secondary schools in the county borough, only 11 were listed as staying open.

Leisure centres and libraries were also hard hit, with only five

facilities listed as staying open.

These were Bryngarw House, the Grand Pavilion, the Garw Valley Leisure Centre, Ty'r Ardd Local Family and History centre, and Pontycymmer Library.

All council-run public toilets were closed, but refuse collections were planned to continue as normal.

No cremations took place at Coychurch Crematorium.

Read your copy of The GEM online - just visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk and register free of charge - keep up to date with what is going on in the county borough!

Music society's Christmas concert

TABERNACL Music Society's Christmas concert takes place on Sunday, December 4 at 7.30pm at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend.

The programme consists of 'A Little Jazz Mass' by Bob Chilcott (of Kings Singers fame) followed by a selection of Christmas carols old and new with some audience participation.

Also taking part are the choir from Trelales Primary School conducted by Carole Lewis, and young violinist Hefin Miles.

Proceeds from this concert will go to the children's charity LATCH. Tickets £6, students £4 from 07974 765578 or at the door.

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Christmas 2011 in Barry...

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KING SQUARE, FRI 2 DECEMBER, 5:30PM - 8PM

Don't miss the giant illuminated winterwonderland birds, live music from 'All That Jazz' and 'Wonderbrass', street entertainers and performance fire shows from Flame OZ. The Christmas lights on the Square and the real Christmas Tree will be turned on at 7.30pm.

SANTA'S SNOW GROTTO

CENTRAL PARK, SAT 10 DECEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

For one day only, Santa and his grotto will be coming to town. The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculpting, play workshops and street entertainers. With live music from 'All That Jazz', 'The Bucket Band' and 'RAF St Athan Brass Band'.



For further details please call 01446 704737 or visit www.visitthevale.com

Remembering Barry's GIs as the 70th anniversary of their 'invasion' draws near



THE NELSON WEDDING.

TODAY, there is very little visible evidence of the 'Friendly Invasion' of Americans to Barry during World War Two.

Their vast supply depot on the outskirts of the town, 'G-40', was built upon long ago by Midland Silicoes, Dow Corning, BP and other industries. Their military camps at Barry Golf Course (Brynhill) and Wenvoe (opposite the top of Pencoeit Lane) have long been given over to housing, or golf, or undergrowth.

Yet, back in 1944, there were literally thousands of 'Yanks', aka 'GIs', blacks and whites, support soldiers and combat troops, 'over here' living in and close to Barry.

These men – and they were almost exclusively men – were here to make preparations for the liberation of Europe from Nazism.

June 1944 would see many of them leaving south Wales for the 'far shore,' and the battle of Normandy. To many of them, their stay in Barry (and the United Kingdom generally) must have seemed like the lull before the storm.

While these 'GIs' were working with

British civilians on Barry Docks, or at the Supply Reserve Depot, Number Two (the SRD), or off duty in the pubs and clubs and cinemas, it was only natural that they would form relationships with local ladies.

During and after the war about 60 local women married Americans and became 'GI brides.'

My aunt, Thelma Toomey, was one, tying the knot with Sergeant Homer Copeland in June 1946.

Thelma, like most of the other war brides, moved to the USA and lived out her life there. Sadly, she made only three return visits – in 1960, 1986 and 1992.

On April 24, 1944, Miss Betty Farmer and Captain Irving Peter Nelson of the 863rd Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company (!) which was busy maintaining US vehicles at G-40, tied the knot.

This union would lead to other members of the Farmer family following Betty across 'the Pond'.

More about that, and other GI brides and their stories to come, as the 70th anniversary year approaches.

GLENN BOOKER



BETTY NELSON



THELMA COPELAND

NEWS IN BRIEF

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society will meet on Friday, December 2 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The sixth Don Wallis Memorial Lecture entitled 'The Joneses of Jesus: Oxford's Welsh Connections' will be delivered by Mark Davies, to be followed by mince pies and wine – all welcome!

Tabernacl coffee

TABERNACLE Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend will hold a 'coffee and mince pies morning' at Tabernacl Hall on Tuesday, December 6 from 10am-12pm; entrance £1 including coffee and mince pies (children admitted free).

Various stalls, proceeds towards the Samaritans and Water Aid.

Christmas Tree World

Situated on the A48, between Bonvilston and the five mile lane turn off



From 1st December 2011 9.00am til late

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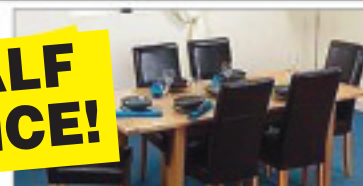
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Christmas tree festival brings a sense of magic to Cowbridge's Holy Cross Church



ABOVE:
Just a few of the
beautifully decorated
trees on show in
the church.

Record numbers of Christmas trees were on show in Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge last week as it staged its annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Andy Banks and his wife Gill (right) were at the opening of the event, which was held over three days (November 25-27).

New crematorium is officially opened



Vale MP Alun Cairns formally
opened the new crematorium.

THE £4 million Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium was officially opened by Vale MP Alun Cairns, at a ceremony and dedication service on November 24.

The chapel can accommodate up to 96 people sitting, and a total of 200 people if some stand.

The crematorium is set in a 20 acre site. People were welcomed on the day by the chairman of Memoria Ltd, Howard Hodgson.

Mr Cairns said: "I was honoured to be invited to formally open this new crematorium."

"Death is one of life's certainties but often many don't wish to talk about it.

"For many years, residents in the Vale have had to travel to Bridgend or Cardiff to say goodbye to their loved ones.

"Now, the Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium can provide a first-class, caring service in a tranquil setting for local residents in the Vale, during what can be the most difficult of times."

Lindsay Ellis of Park Funeral Directors said the new crematorium would

make things easier for bereaved local families: "Having a crematorium in the Vale will save families a lot of distress in terms of having to deal with the travelling time to Bridgend or Cardiff.

"It could be up to 45 minutes to get there, meaning a round trip of an hour and a half by the time they got home.

"With the new facility, that is something they will not have to contend with any more."



PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK.



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ACOUSTIC DUO'S SHOW
LOCAL acoustic duo, 'The Vale of Jam-Morgan', will be making their debut performance at the Borough Arms, High Street, Barry, this Saturday, December 3. With a varied set taking in the likes of Oasis, The Beatles, Katy Perry, Take That and much, much more, there is something for everyone!
Entry is free, with the band taking the stage at 9.30pm.

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Out and About with The GEM

LIB-DEM SURGERY

WELSH Lib-Dem Assembly member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will hold an advice surgery on Friday, December 2, in Pyle Life Centre, Bridgend, from 2pm-3pm. No appointment is necessary.

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

New stalls to see...

Saturday 3rd September - Llantonian Hall
(behind the library) 10.00am - 3pm

A Christmas special with Santa!

Enquiries, contact Peta Shields
E:petash@peartreecott.co.uk

Last Christmas event due Saturday 17th December

Porthcawl U3A in a festive mood

PORHCRAWL U3A is celebrating the festive season with its normal full programme of events throughout December at The Rest, Porthcawl, plus the following special Christmas events:

Popular Writers and Story morning, Prince of Wales, Kenfig on December 2; Festive Singalong concert by the Singalong Group at The Rest, December 12;

Christmas carol service at Trinity Church, December 13; *Cinderella and her Fella* pantomime by the Latin and Romans group at The Rest on December 14.

This unique bi-lingual pantomime is performed in Latin and English.

Colouring and cakes

COWBRIDGE Library is holding a 'colouring and cakes' day to raise money for LATCH

– the Welsh children's cancer charity on Saturday, December 3 from 10am-4pm.

All ages are welcome. For more information, contact the library on 01446 773941.

Eisteddfod quiz

QUIZ evening/Noson Gwis, Saturday, December 3 at 7pm at All Saints Church, Porth y Castell, in aid of Eisteddfod 2012. Tickets £6 including soup, cheese and cake -

bring your own wine! Contact Heulwen Cooper (01446 733784) for tickets.

Valeways walks

'THE fine inns of Cowbridge' walk will take place Sunday, December 4 at 2.30pm; meet in front of Cowbridge town hall (SS994747).

'Blow away the cobwebs' walk on Tuesday, December 6 at 1.30pm; meet at Barry Island car park (side of Old Harbour).

Lovelight service

THERE will be a Lovelight Christmas service on Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry.

The choir from All Saints Primary School will be taking part and the service will be taken by the Rev Adrian Berry.

The service has been arranged by the Barry Friends of Tenovus group, and they look forward to welcoming as many as possible to this moving service, to light

a candle in memory of family and friends who are no longer with us and also give thanks for the recovery from illness.

For further details, contact Mrs Mary Thomas on 01446 733978.

Tenovus

BARRY Friends of Tenovus are holding a Christmas coffee morning on Wednesday, December 14, 10.30am at the Romilly Bowling Club in Romilly Park Barry.

Entry £2, various stalls and a raffle. All are welcome.

Contact Mary Thomas on 01446 733978 for information.

Festive tree festival

THE All Saints and Rotary Christmas tree festival takes place on December 7-11.

More than 50 Christmas trees will form a magnificent display in All Saints Church and the festival will be open from 11am-5pm.

There will be a musical evening with local schools and Sounds Familiar on Thursday, December 8 at 7pm and at 12noon on December 8, there will be a lunchtime concert with Col Canto.

Free entry to all events and there will be a collection for local charities.

Palmerston craft fayre

THERE will be a Christmas craft fayre at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Cadoc Crescent, Barry, on December 6-7 from 10am-4pm.

Craft stalls; glass, jewellery, cards and produce. Admission free. Refreshments available.

Telephone 01446 733762 for more information.

Festive lights

THE village of St Athan will be opening their Christmas celebrations with the annual switching-on of the Christmas lights on December 6, plus entertainment from 6pm with St Athan Youth Band, St Athan Primary School Choir and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band.

The lights will go on at 7pm and there will be rides for children, local celebrities – not forgetting a guest appearance by Santa himself – and a grand prize draw supported by businesses in St Athan.

Llantwit Road will be closed between 4pm-9pm.

Legion meets

COWBRIDGE British Legion branch holds its AGM on Thursday,

December 8 in the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to pay their membership can do so at the meeting. Forms can be picked up in the meeting for anyone wishing to join.

Billboard panto

BILLBOARD present the pantomime *Hunchback of Notre Dame* at the Memorial Hall and Theatre, Barry, on December 14, 15 and 16 (matinees on 17 and 18).

For more information, call 01446 733625/400055.

'Lovelight' service

THE Llantwit Major Friends of Tenovus are holding their 'Lovelight' service on Thursday, December 15 from 7.30pm at St Illtyd's Church.

Toy and train sale

THE final collector's show of 2011 takes place at Barry Leisure Centre on Sunday, December 4.

However, three dates for 2012 have already been booked and the area will also be well-catered for on Saturday, January 7, at Penarth Leisure Centre.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry is always a very happy show and one which attracts many

people to the well-appointed and well-lit venue.

"Our traders are keen-er than ever to do business in these difficult times, and I have never seen such value being offered, in all my years in the business."

The show opens at 10.30am and continues until 3pm. Further details on 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyer-fairs.co.uk.

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Biggins will star in panto

CHRISTOPHER BIGGINS and Paul Zerdin, the stars of this year's New Theatre pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe* and the *Caribbean Pirates*, have officially launched the swashbuckling show during a visit to Cardiff.

Christopher Biggins, who has enjoyed a hugely successful career in television, film and theatre, will take on the role of Mrs Crusoe, Robinson Crusoe's

mother. Christopher's countless television appearances include being crowned King of the Jungle on ITV's *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!*, winner of *Celebrity Come Dine with Me* on Channel 4, as well as making regular appearances on *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*.

He has recently appeared in the film adaptation of the stage play *Run for your Wife*, which is due for release in the spring.

"The hilarious antics of larger-than-life Christopher Biggins is matched by the huge talent of Paul Zerdin and we are thrilled they will be leading the cast of this hugely-entertaining and unmissable pantomime at the New Theatre," said Jonathan Kiley, executive producer of *Robinson Crusoe* and the *Caribbean Pirates*.

Produced by Qdos Entertainment, the company behind the New Theatre's record-breaking pantomimes in recent years, the adventure of *Robinson Crusoe* and the *Caribbean Pirates* will be brought to life with an abundance of comedy, outrageous costumes and stunning sets!

Robinson Crusoe and the *Caribbean Pirates* is sponsored by Admiral and runs at Cardiff's New Theatre from Saturday, December 10, 2011 to Sunday, January 22, 2012. Telephone 02920878889 for tickets.

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Take part in our Special Events
Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto
Sat 3rd - Sun 4th Dec 11am - 4pm
A wide range of Christmas gift ideas, including local crafts and food stalls. Santa's Grotto open from 11.30am - 1.30pm. Normal admission charges apply (additional cost applies for Grotto).
Christmas Decorations Workshop
Sat 10th Dec 11am - 4pm
The day will cover making a variety of Christmas decorations including wreaths and swags using some natural materials, which you will be able to take home to decorate your home for the festive season. Minimum 10 people. Cost £25.
Botanical Art
Sat 28th Jan 11am - 4pm
Learn how to draw a botanical subject in a day with Debbie Devauden. The day will cover different drawing and water colour techniques culminating in your taking home your very own art piece. Cost £25. This course has previously been a sell-out so book early. Maximum 8, maximum 12 people.
Stargazers' Evening
Sat 3rd Dec 11pm - 8.30pm
Join the Cardiff Astronomical Society looking at the night sky. Illustrated talks will replace the viewing in the case of inclement weather. Please book as there are limited spaces. Cost £7.
For a full list of our Autumn/Winter events please visit our website or call us on 029 2059 3328 - www.dyffryngardens.com
dyffryn@alecglamorgan.gov.uk

StyleGardens Christmas Craft Fayres
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Saturday 3rd 10th 17th 9am - 5.30pm
Sunday 4th 11th 18th 10.30am - 4.30pm
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PITT AND HILL SHINE AS MILLER'S MONEYBALL STRIKES A HOME RUN

SPORTS teams using statistics to give themselves the best chance of achieving success is nothing new in the present day, but the seeds for this were sown by the Oakland Athletics baseball team, whose story was turned into a book by Michael

Lewis, and now a film called *Moneyball*.

Brad Pitt plays Billy Beane, the club's general manager whose resources are limited in comparison to the bigger teams.

However, using sabre-metrics, a method being used by Yale graduate Peter Brand (Jonah Hill) Beane and his team begin punching above their weight and achiev-

ing more than they ever dreamed, much to the chagrin of head coach Art Howe (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and the team's scouts ...

By now we've all seen the traditional sports movie; you know, the one where the underdog builds his way up from the bottom, undergoes a transformation in fortune before achieving either massive success or heroic failure in the final reel.

Predominantly the preserve of American cinema, we've seen it in boxing (*Rocky*, *The Fighter*), American football (*Remember The Titans*), even robot fighting (last month's *Real Steel*).

So with *Moneyball* set in the world of baseball you will no doubt be expecting the same journey, just with different characters – but you would be wrong. Not drastically I grant you,

the film showing a similar regard for genre convention as the aforementioned works, but this is a film that concentrates on off-field debates and struggles more than on-field action.

The actual story is an intriguing and interesting one, particularly as the system utilised in the film has now become such a massive part of team sports across the world, including football and rugby, and with heavyweight writers Aaron Sorkin and Steve Zaillian working from Michael Lewis' source material, it becomes a highly cinematic one as well, showing that you don't need to be the biggest dog in the yard in order to compete (the equivalent being Butlins attempting to take on Disneyland).

Both writers are well-known, Sorkin for the acerbic and truly mesmeric dialogue, while Zaillian has tackled heavyweight fare such as *Schindler's List* and *Gangs of New York* with aplomb, and it is pleasing that the script here, based on Stan Chervin's story, retains the best parts of each man's writing style.

The screenplay is funnier than it should be, with Sorkin's way with words more than on show, the dialogue spiky and witty though with far more economy than usual.

Zaillian's ability to conjure a wholly absorbing narrative while still retaining the human interest at the centre of it all is present and correct (Beane's relationship with his daughter moving the story away from too much bat and ball action).

The film similarly benefits from having a more substantial director in Bennett Miller, whose last movie was the critically-lauded *Capote*.

Again Miller's direction pays off in spades, taking the film away from its sporting base and concentrating on the characters and set-ups, giving the film an almost documentary feel.

There is little in the way of sporting action; instead, the camera following Beane's own tactic of avoiding watching the game and following the character as he keeps tabs on what's happening via TV and radio.

There is a beautifully-executed shot towards the end that shows Miller's intentions are not about showing the high points of the game but rather the effect it has upon the players,

coaches and staff; this isn't a film that places its stock in terms of sporting achievement, rather the pressures of trying to change the mindset of people who fear change.

In the lead role, Brad Pitt is nothing short of superb, leading a raft of naturalistic performances that lend themselves wholly to the feel of the piece.

The actor delivers a grounded and highly impressive performance, giving Beane a persona of being outwardly confident yet hiding his fears inside, while the failed career in his past casts new light on his mindset and decision making.

With Jonah Hill playing straight (yet providing some comedy) and the gravitas of Philip Seymour Hoffman in a rather slight role, the film doesn't want for strong performances, and the realism of the turns all give the film the authenticity that sets it apart.

A far more compelling take on the sports movie, *Moneyball* is an engaging and intriguing film that looks at the world behind the sport of baseball and gives you an in-depth look at just what it takes to

SCREEN TALK



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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achieve your goals – and it is also a superb piece of filmmaking.

VERDICT: A sturdy story of statistics, *Moneyball* eschews the normal sporting film template for something more cerebral and captivating.

With a top script, direction and winning performances, the film ticks all the boxes and should make for great watch no matter what level your love of baseball. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Friday Night Lights* (2004), *Eight Men Out* (1988).

GHOSTLY TALES...

by **HAYLEY WILLIAMS**

THE ancient borough of Kenfig dates back to around 2,000 BC. It was also linked to the Romans, and was a thriving town encased within high walls to protect it from enemy attack.

It is steeped in history and legends, which are fascinating tales about the town's existence. Kenfig castle and the original town were buried under the sand mountains during the medieval period after a raging storm, although many believe that they lie beneath Kenfig pool/lake, which gobbled up its town and people.

Legend maintains that Kenfig pool is bottomless, as this was the belief after a man, his horse and carriage became entangled in the ruins of the old town beneath the menacing waters when riding through it. The fable insists they

were never seen again. Myth states that a fierce whirlpool sucks people into its funnel of swirling water, swallowing them up as if satisfying its hunger. Could this unlikely fable be an invention from the pool's humble beginnings, or an 'old wives tale' told to families from a bygone era, gathered around the fireplace listening to tales from their elders?

Eerie screams have been heard at the dead of night bellowing out across the wilderness... Could these frightful sounds be from a young man from the Victorian era who drowned in Kenfig river after falling from a tree, or the Gwrach y Rhibyn (hag of the mist) echoing her spell of wickedness?

Sightings of a white horse on moonlit nights have been identified, catering across the wilderness, only to vanish into thin air. Could this phantom appearance

be a remembrance of the Roman tragedy linked to the Maid of Sker?

On the distant seas towards Sker rocks, a ghostly ship has been seen mirroring white mist around it, particularly on stormy nights, when the church bells beneath the pool will distinctly ring out.

Could these scary happenings be a re-enactment of a ship lost to the treacherous seas, when the bells would ring out warning its people of disaster?

The figure of a phantom lady wearing an old fashioned flowing gown has been seen dancing across the land before disappearing into the darkness.

Could this seemingly happy lady be connected to the annual dancing festivals which were held at the local guildhall, or just an illusion lost in the midst of time?

Fact or fable, it's up to you to decide....

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Newton school's Christmas Fayre is a festive success

ALL the important ingredients were there when Porthcawl Primary School held its Christmas Fayre on Saturday (November 26).

There was a bouncy castle, various stalls selling items with a festive theme, fun and games for the children and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus (pictured below).

One very popular spot for the children was a huge collection of cuddly toys (below right), where everyone found a special little friend!



Photographs by
MALCOLM NUGENT



Newton school pupils
with the medal.

RIGHT:
Both sides of the
medal.

**REPORT and
PHOTOS
by KEITH E
MORGAN**

A NEW limited edition medal has been specially struck by Porthcawl's Queen's Diamond Jubilee events group, in conjunction with Porthcawl Town Council.

After consultation with various children's groups and parents within the town, it was felt that the new medal best represented a tribute to the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee and provided a solid investment for the future.

The medal will be given exclusively to children resident in the town of Porthcawl, that is, those under 18 years of age on December 31, 2011.

The medals will be presented by the Town Mayor, together with representatives of the Porthcawl Queen's Diamond Jubilee events group during the spring of 2012.

On the obverse of this rare medal will be the Queen's Diamond Jubilee logo, while the Porthcawl Town Coat of Arms will be on the reverse.



ABOVE: Children from Newton Primary School with an example of the new Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal. Also in the picture are (left to right): Rev Paul Floe, Minister of Trinity Church, together with representatives of the Porthcawl Queen's Diamond Jubilee events group: Vic Davies; Lindsay Morgan (chairman); the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs; Coun Chris Smart; Des Rees.

Porthcawl's tribute to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



The Seaweeds outwit Police

THE Seaweeds' topsy-turvy season continued as they came away from Waterton with a 25-14 victory, achieved with just 13 men at the end.

On an atrocious afternoon, with rain and a driving wind, Ryan Miles got the home side off to a good start, with his penalty perfectly judged for a 3-nil lead.

Mathew Owen replied with a similar effort for Porthcawl before Miles again beat the wind with his second penalty for a 6-3 lead.

Seaweeds No 8 Lloyd Long, despite starting well, saw red just before the break as he was caught by the referee losing his cool and his marching orders followed.

The second half started badly for both sides as a player from each side also got the red card, somewhat unfairly following a pretty minor skirmish, leaving 13 to play 14, yet somehow this galvanised Porthcawl, who started to

take control of the match. Firstly, Owen kicked his second penalty to level before Nick Nutman powered over to give Porthcawl an 11-6 lead.

When Owen himself danced through a bemused home defence for a try he also converted, at 18-6 it seemed to be enough to secure the match.

Miles pulled back three points with his third successful penalty for the police.

Then Seaweeds' lock Ian O'Keefe, who so often promises much, came into his own with a golden 15 minutes when he became main ball carrier, with several mighty surges, and a try scorer as he bulldozed the home defence for Owen to convert for 25-9, approaching the end of the match.

Mark Downes secured an injury time consolation try for the Police to leave the result at 25-14 in Porthcawl's favour, a welcome result after two disappointing weeks.

PAUL FIELDING



Lucy and Rhodri light up Cowbridge for Christmas as Santa Claus comes to town!

THE day began with Santa and his reindeer leading the parade through Cowbridge, watched by a crowd of many thousands.

After musical entertainment during the afternoon, it was time for the BBC's Lucy and Rhodri Owen, local residents and great supporters of the town, to join Santa and Alun John, the chairman of the chamber of trade, for the switching on of the town's Christmas lights.

Mr John later said it was the biggest crowd ever at the event, estimating it at between 20,000 and 25,000, with visitors coming from as far afield as London and Devon.

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS



ABOVE: Rhodri Owen with Santa.



Chamber of Trade chairman Alun John.



Rhodri Owen with the Town Mayor, Coun Andy Banks.



ABOVE: Lucy prepares to light up the town.



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Thank you from Paul and Darran



Paul James and Darran Gray are the new team at Bargain Booze, Cowbridge.

We would like to thank everyone in and around Cowbridge for the warm reception and support we have received.

It means a lot to us to be made to feel welcome in the town and we look forward to seeing you at your local store very soon - call 01446 775380, 27 Eastgate. Regards, Paul and Darran.

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25th March 2012

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15th April 2012

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Doors Open 11am-4pm
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Santa Claus is coming to Bijou

CHRISTMAS officially began last Sunday - when Santa and his Reindeer came to Cowbridge for the annual parade.

Here at Bijou we aim to continue that magical feel and we will be welcoming Santa back to Cowbridge with a special Bijou welcome on

December 17.

Santa, can be visited in his grotto right up until Christmas, and there will also be a series of family teas with Santa, which will include afternoon tea, visit to your table by Santa, Christmas carols and a framed family picture with the big man himself.

For bookings, please contact Bijou on 01446 771190

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See our advertisement on front page or page 4.

View our menu at www.westhouse-hotel.co.uk or call 01446 792406.

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Brian said: "Our Christmas offer is to get a free circulation booster pack worth £199.99, with every walk-in bath installation ordered before December 25.

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For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact members@vwbn.org.uk.

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Christmas fun to support cause...

JUST Learning Nursery, Broadlands, would like to invite you to our Christmas fete on Saturday, December 10, from 10am until 1pm, in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital, a charity close to our hearts.

Come and visit our Santa's grotto, have a

family photo taken by Christabel Photography, or simply have a browse around the stalls for Christmas presents from Rascals toy shop, hand crafted items, and our book stall.

There will be face painting, tombola, lucky dip, refreshments – and why not try your luck in our Christmas raffle?

Come and join the fun and visit our fabulous nursery. For further information, please contact 01656 649644.

Come to our brilliant Christmas Fete
Please join us for our Christmas Fete on Saturday 10th December, from 10am until 1pm.
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TRADING on Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, JOHN HUGHES is a traditionally-run family butchers.

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The business is now taking orders for Christmas, telephone 01443 225225.

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road on Wednesday, December 7, include reading with Didi (from 3pm - 4pm). There is also a great social afternoon from 2pm - 5pm.

School awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Joshua Urch - class 1, Teilan Loveluck - class 2, Josef Gray - class 3, Alex Underhill - class 4, Lik To Chung - class 5, Senem Akpinar - class 6, and Gareth Davies from class 7. The headteacher's award last week went to Kate Thomas.

Children in Need - Last week, the children enjoyed raising money for 'Children in Need' raising a brilliant £281.50. They looked great in their various costumes. After the break, everyone enjoyed 'MCJS Has Got Talent' with more than 30 acts taking part.

Many thanks to Ellie Griffiths' mother who sent in 200 cupcakes, which the children bought for 50p each.

Inter school matches - Last week the school played netball and rugby matches

against Brynmenyn Primary School. The game was the first round of the Illyd Williams Cup and the school again made it through to the next round winning by 35-0 with Connor Farnham scoring two tries, Callum Lewis three, and Leon Jones and Ben Evans getting one each.

The B side were also successful with Chad Baker scoring the winning try for a 5-0 win.

The school netball teams all played but with mixed results. The A team won 8-6 but unfortunately the B team lost 6-1, with the C team losing 10-1.

However, the school have a young side this year and they will have the opportunity over the next 12 months to improve.

Lower school concert - Tickets priced at £3 are available for the Lower School Concert, which will take place in Pyle Life Centre on Tuesday, December 6, at 1.30 pm and Wednesday, December 7, at 6.30 pm.

Christmas lights

ON December 9, following carol singing in the Talbot Community Centre from 5.45 pm, a warm welcome is extended to everyone from Pyle and Kenfig Hill Community Council to attend the Christmas lighting up ceremony by the Monument in Kenfig Hill at 6pm.

Following this, the



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net



Jessica Pritchard and Megan Lemon meeting Father Christmas at the Christmas Fayre.

children will be able to meet Santa, who will be handing out surprises in his grotto at the Talbot Community Centre.

To end the evening, the Talbot is putting on a free children's disco.

Choir's anniversary

CORNELLY Community Council staged a concert in the community centre to mark the 40th anniversary of the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir.

The concert was free to residents of Cornelly, and acknowledged the achievements of the

choir and the service it has provided to the community.

The choir were joined by Maria Lyn, who charmed the audience with her professional performance and even more so when she was joined by her son, Ben Howells, in a duet.

The evening concluded with MP Madeleine Moon paying tribute to all concerned, and she commented on the community spirit which was so evident on the night.

What was also pleasing was the appearance of First Minister, Carwyn Jones, making time to attend from a previous engagement.

December is always a busy time for the choir, with many visits to retirement/care homes and hospitals singing carols. However, this year it is even busier.

Tomorrow, December 2, the choir has been invited to sing in the Millennium Centre to mark the launch of an all-Wales charity 'Diverse Cymru', the amalgamation of two existing charities, Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People (CVCDP) and Awetu.

The following day they will return to Cardiff for the Wales v Australia game, this time joining other choirs in the Millennium Stadium for pre-match singing.

Mynydd Infants School

A COMPETITION was organised by Sacred Wales as part of 'Celebrating RE', inviting all schools from across Wales to produce an electronic presentation of how RE is celebrated in their school.

The children in year-2, taught by Mrs Carol van Rooyen, were awarded joint first prize for their presentation, which demonstrated



Sacre Wales, The adults are: Amanda Stanford - headteacher, Carys Pritchard - Advisor for RE at ESIS, Reverend Evans, Richard Landy, assistant director for learning and skills at BCBC for ESIS and Carol van Rooyen, year-2 class teacher and RE co-ordinator.



Special Project entrepreneurs Maicy Styles, Will Ronan, Joshua Roberts and Tilly Anderson.

Safety campaigner's hopes depend on bid for Assembly cash

A BID for funding to help improve pedestrian safety around Bridgend College has been submitted by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

If BCBC's application to the Welsh Government via SEWTA (South East Wales Transport Alliance) is successful, it will release £100,000 to spend on a red light camera, an additional pedestrian crossing and a proposed footpath widening scheme.

The move has been welcomed by safety campaigner Kiera Phillips from Brackla, who broke her neck and lower back in a 'hit and run' incident outside the college on December 1 last year.

She was hit while using the Cowbridge Road pedestrian crossing near the entrance of Bridgend College's main campus.

BCBC Deputy Leader Coun David Sage hopes that if the funding is successful, it will help prevent further accidents



ABOVE: Coun David Sage with safety campaigner Kiera Phillips, who was joined by two friends, Sarah Davies (left) and Elora Smith.

and injuries.

He said: "We have looked into the accident rate in this area and can see that there have been a relatively high number of pedestrian accidents."

"These include the shocking case of Kiera Phillips, where a car jumped a red light and then drove away, leaving her terribly injured."

"We are delighted that Kiera is now making such a good recovery. We also really admire the way she has campaigned on this issue -

which is why we are so pleased to tell her this positive news about the funding application."

Coun Sage added: "If we are successful, we will work closely with our partners in South Wales Police to make the area a safer place for students and other pedestrians."

Kiera, who is 18, said: "I'm extremely happy about this. I can't begin to describe it, I'm just glad something is going to be done about it."



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Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012



Eisteddfod Choir to perform British premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work

ONE of the greatest activities the Eisteddfod brings to any area is the formation of the Eisteddfod Choir, with an opportunity to perform in front of over 2,000 people in the Eisteddfod pavilion with a full concert orchestra and world class soloists

This week came the exciting news that the Eisteddfod Choir will be performing the British premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work: *The Bards of Wales*.

Gower-born Karl initially made his name in the world of jazz; however, it was his composition *Adiemus* that brought him worldwide success. *Adiemus* combined the classical with ethnic vocal sounds and topped classical and pop charts around the world.

His compositions include *Requiem*, *Stabat Mater* and *Devi Sant* and he has also collaborated with some of the world's best known singers including Bryn Terfel, Hayley Westenra and Kiri Te Kanawa.

Karl Jenkins is the UK's most popular contemporary composer, and one of Wales' most versatile and critically-acclaimed musicians.

He is credited as being the most performed living composer

in the world, his composition *'The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace'* alone has been performed nearly 1000 times in 20 different countries since the CD was released while his recorded output has resulted in seventeen gold and platinum disc awards.

His latest work *'The Bards of Wales'* was premiered in Hungary in June. The piece forges an unexpected link between Hungary and Wales: The Hungarian poet János Arany (1817-82) was asked to write a poem in praise of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph but, as the Austrian overlords had just suppressed the 1848 Hungarian Revolution, the poet did the opposite.

To satisfy the state censor, the poem was written in terms of Welsh history, rather than Hungarian, telling how Edward I of England executed Welsh bards for failing to sing his praises at a banquet in Montgomery Castle in 1277.

When Hungary emerged from World War I as an independent state, The Bards of Wales found its place in the national education system and is learnt by heart by all children at the age of 13 or 14.

In Hungary it is a poem so ingrained into the cultural psyche that adults and children can recite it on demand.

Jenkins has set the text in Hungarian, Welsh

and English, and it is intended that the work can be sung throughout in a single language or a combination. The British premiere of the work at the Eisteddfod will feature the Welsh language version of the work by poet Twm Morris.

According to Eisteddfod Organiser Hywel Wyn Edwards: "We are delighted that Karl Jenkins has chosen the Eisteddfod for the British premiere of this new work. The Eisteddfod choir are looking forward immensely to performing the work. Should you be interested in joining the Eisteddfod choir there is still an opportunity to join and we are urging local people to do so."

Joining the choir is easy! Rehearsals are held at the Tabernacle Chapel, Barry, every Tuesday evening at 19.00 under the baton of choir masters Euros Rhys and Eleri Roberts. If you are interested in joining, contact the eisteddfod office on gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk or 0845 40 90 300, or come along to one of the rehearsals.

Côr yr Eisteddfod i berfformio premiere Prydeinig o waith newydd Karl Jenkins

MAE ffurfio Côr yr Eisteddfod yn un o brif weithgareddau ymweliad yr Eisteddfod i unrhyw ardal. Mae'n gyfle i berfformio i bafliwn o dros 2,000 o bobol gyda cherddorfa broffesiynol ac unawdwydwyd bydd enwog.

Wylhinos yma daeth y newyddion cyffrous y bydd Côr Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg yn perfformio premier Prydeinig gwaith

newydd Karl Jenkins: *Beirdd Cymru*.

Gwnaeth Karl Jenkins, sydd yn enedigol o'r Gwyr, ei enw yn wreiddiol ym myd Jazz. Ei gyfansoddiad *Adiemus* fodd bynnag ddaeth ag ef i amlygrwydd fyd enwog. Cyfunodd *Adiemus* y clasurol gyda synau lleisiol ethnig ac offer taro ac fe gyrhaeddodd y brig yn siartiau clasurol a pop ar draws y byd. Ymysg ei gyfansoddiadau mae *Requiem*, *Stabat Mater* a *Devi Sant*. Mae o hefyd wedi cydweithio gyda rhai o gantorion mawr y byd gan gynnwys Bryn Terfel, Hayley Westenra a Kiri Te Kanawa.

Karl Jenkins yw'r cyfansoddwr byw a berfformir mwyaf yn y byd, mae ei waith: *'The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace'* ei hun wedi ei berfformio bron i 1,000 o weithiau mewn 20 o wledydd gwahanol.

Perfformiwyd ei waith diweddaraf, *'Beirdd Cymru'*, mewn premier arbennig yn Hwngari fis Mehefin ac mae'r darn yn datgelu cysylltiad annisgwyl rhwng Cymru a Hwngari. Gofynnwyd i'r bardd János Arany (1817-82) i ysgrifennu darn i glodfôr i'r Ymerawdwr o Awstria Franz Joseph ond oherwydd bod arglwyddi Awstria newydd drechu Chwyldro Hwngari yn 1848 fe wnaeth János Arany y gwrthwyneb.

Er mwyn cadw sensor y Cynulliad yn hapus ysgrifennwyd y gerdd yn adrodd hanes Cymru yn hytrach na Hwngari, gan son am sut y dienyddwyd *Beirdd Cymru* gan Edward I am wrthod canu clod iddo mewn gwledd yng Nghastell Trefaldwyn yn 1277.

Pan ymgododd Hwngari fel gwlad annibynnol ar ôl y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf fe wnaeth *'Beirdd Cymru'* ymddangos ar gwriclwm addysg y wlad a hyd heddiw mae'r darn yn cael ei astudio gan blant ysgolion y wlad.

Mae'n wir i ddweud bod y darn mor reddfol i bobol Hwngari gall unrhyw oedolyn neu blentyn o'r wlad ei adrodd o'r cof. Mae Jenkins wedi gosod y testun yn Gymraeg, Hwngaraidd a Saesneg gyda'r bwriad i'r gwaith gael ei perfformio mewn unrhyw un o'r tair iaith neu gyfuniad o'r tri. Fe fydd y premier Prydeinig yn cynnwys y

fersiwn Gymraeg o'r gwaith sydd wedi ei gyfieithu gan y Prifardd Twm Morys.

Yn ôl Trefnydd yr Eisteddfod Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae'r Eisteddfod wrth ei bodd bod Karl Jenkins wedi dewis yr Eisteddfod ar gyfer llwyddu ei waith newydd am y tro cyntaf yn Mhrydain ac mae Côr yr Eisteddfod yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar i berfformio'r gwaith. Os oes diddordeb gyda chi i ymuno gyda'r Côr yna mae dal cyfle i wneud ac rydym yn annog unrhyw lleol sydd hefo diddordeb i wneud."

Mae ymuno gyda'r Côr yn hawdd! Cynhelir ymarferion yng Nghapel Tabernacl y Barri bob nos Fawrth am 19.00 dan arweinyddiaeth y Cor Feistri Euros Rhys ac Eleri Roberts. Os oes did-



dordeb gyda chi mewn ymuno yna cysylltwch â Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod ar gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk neu 0845 40 90 300 neu galwch draw i un o'r ymarferion.

ABOVE:
Welsh composer Karl Jenkins, whose new work, *The Bards of Wales*, will be premiered at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale next year.

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It's not just cats and dogs that get dumped by cruel owners!



Denise Cooper feeding the abandoned Ebdon Goose.

ANIMAL lovers are regularly horrified by the cruel practice of abandoning unwanted pets – particularly cats and dogs.

However, a Vale woman is trying to highlight a less high-profile issue – that of people who get a duck or goose as a pet and then grow tired of it.

Denise Cooper, who lives near Fonnmon Pond in the village of Fonnmon, says that she and her neighbours are currently getting a daily reminder of the distress that it can cause to animals.

She told The GEM: "An abandoned goose has been here for three days, and spends hours showing how distressed it is by honking for hours at a stretch.

"We heard a car pull up late on Sunday night, and it was here in the morning. We get domestic ducks dumped in the pond quite regularly, but this is the first goose."

Denise explained that there were several reasons for the goose's distress. They are social birds and pair for life, so it could be missing a mate.

On the other hand, a gosling could 'imprint' itself on a human, and when that human is not around, it could be just distressed as if it had lost its mate.

Another problem is that domesticated ducks and geese are not cut out to mix it in the wild.

They will be bullied and ostracised by the wild ones, who are also more aggressive when it comes to finding food.

Denise said: "On the pond at the moment, is the newly-arrived goose – an Ebdon Goose – and

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

also another recent arrival, a Muscovy Duck.

"I am sure that this one was dumped as well. There are no other Muscovys on the pond and it, too, is being shunned and threatened by the wild ducks."

Fonnmon Pond looks to be an idyllic place for a duck or goose to live, but Denise says that this is not the reality.

She said: "I suspect that some people think that the duck will be happy in its new home, but it doesn't work out like that.

"I would say that over the last two years, six each year have been abandoned and none has survived.

"They were either taken by foxes, or were run over by cars, because they had grown up in a safe domestic environment."

PC Mark Goulding, who is based in Cowbridge but is the Wildlife Protection Officer for south Wales, told The GEM that it was an animal welfare issue, but was a very difficult one to prove.

He said that unless there was solid evidence of a person dumping the birds, it would always be hard to take action.

Denise Cooper said that she had called the RSPCA, who said it was an offence to dump ducks or geese, and that she was expecting an inspector to call and advise on a course of action.

She said: "Geese are vegetarians and there is not much here on the pond for it, so I am feeding it what every day.

"I don't know if it can

fly, but even if it could, it would need a bigger stretch of water to be able to take off.

"People who decide to keep a domesticated duck or goose need to be aware of what happens to it in the wild.

"If they had asked around, I am sure they could have found someone with their own geese who would have taken it.

"As it is, it is obviously suffering and in great distress."

COLWINSTON FRIENDS GET-TOGETHER

Fundraising night will provide toys for pre-school youngsters



Pictures courtesy of Gemma Griffiths Photography



FAMILY and friends of Colwinston pre-school had a "great night" raising funds while being entertained by local band Helter Skelter.

It was a very enjoyable and successful fundraising night, and the money raised will go towards helping both the ongoing running costs of the committee and the purchase of some new educational toys such as Jolly Phonics for the children. **CM**



Penarth Computer Club answers some questions

WHEN my laptop is used at club meetings, the projector reduces my screen resolution to a level it can handle.

The result is that my screen looks quite different from what I am used to at home and slows me down a bit. For the audience, it means that the icons on screen are larger and easier to read.

At the last meeting, my wireless network picked up a new local network that wasn't protected by a password.

The meeting was a brains trust evening where Steve and Mike J and I try to answer questions from the floor on any computer-related matters.

The first topic was how to disable my network card to avoid interfering with the unprotected network! (Right-click on the wireless icon in the left of the Task Bar and click Disable.)

One visitor was planning to buy her first computer and was seeking advice. A lot of advice was given and is worth summarising.

The first thing pointed out was that only the prospective buyer can say what the computer will have to do. This means asking oneself questions that are hard to answer.

It is easier to understand by imagining the process involved if a friend asked for advice on buying a car.

Capacity, speed and cost are obvious questions. Then there is the choice of manufacture, driving instruction and service and maintenance. This is followed by any extras for more fun or better productivity.

Consider portability. If you want to carry it around the house or around the country, it could be a laptop or a notebook or a sophisticated telephone. If it will be staying put on a desk, then the same money spent on a desktop will give you more "bang for your buck" as Steve said.

Anyone starting out from scratch knowing nothing about computers was advised to spend some time reading computing magazines. Ignore ones that are high-tech and read the

ones that deal in plain English.

Take time to get the feel, of the subject, what is under development and what the experts are talking about.

Adverts will be biased towards the products they advertise, but will indicate the range of options available.

All this will help to compile a list of desirable features on capacity and performance so that you can discuss options with sales staff.

A completely different approach would be to buy a cheap machine to get used to using a computer. You will gradually become familiar with its limitations and after a couple of years, will be able to buy a better machine with confidence.

A colleague once told me he would buy a computer when they cost £200 and he could hold it in one hand. That was over 25 years ago and he's almost there.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 13 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. 7.30pm for 8pm. It is our end-of-term "Chips and Chat" social evening. For more information telephone Howard on 029 20708439.

HOWARD DESMOND

Air Cadets flying high for the Royal British Legion...

AIR CADETS from 372 Squadron (Barry) were recently a familiar sight at Tesco's in Barry selling poppies for the Royal British Legion – and raised £1,700.

The top fundraising Cadet this year was Adam Wood, who collected £377 by himself, dedicating many hours to supporting the poppy appeal.

Steve Whitehorn from the Royal British Legion paid tribute to the Cadets: "I am pleased that the Air Cadets have again supported the Royal British Legion this year and have raised this magnificent sum of money; which will help and support ex-service personnel in our community."

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, Officer Commanding 372 Squadron, commented: "I am immensely proud of these fine young men and women who have again worked hard to support the work of the Royal British Legion".

The Cadets were Megan Palmer-Wood, Adam Wood, Georgina Poulakis, Sam Lazenbury, Kieren Long, Leah Veale,



Corporal Sam Lazenbury and Cadet Steph Jones selling poppies.

Bethan Hopkins, Anthony Gent and Steph Jones.

While the Cadets enjoy many varied activities, which the ATC provide, they are also encouraged to give something back to their communities.

Last year, they raised more than £6,000 – helping many community organisations, including the Royal Air Forces Association and MacMillan Cancer.

Cadets undertake many exciting activities and opportunities, which include flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, team building exercises, expeditions, visits and field craft training and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for young men and women between 13–18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm–9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can contact the Squadron on 01446 747734; or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information about joining or the Air Training Corps.

Stitch and Bitch boost BHF

COWBRIDGE Stitch and Bitch held a crafters' tea at the Lesser Hall recently and raised £725 for the British Heart Foundation.

Coffee for Marie Curie

THE Marie Curie Llantwit Major Support Group recently raised £370 for the charity.

"We would like to thank Ann and Roger Fry for the use of their home for our annual coffee morning. We should also like to thank everyone who supported this event," a spokeswoman said.

WINTER SERVICING

A Glamorgan GEM Advertisement Feature

KEEP YOUR CAR IN TIP TOP CONDITION!

Most drivers are ignoring big freeze guidelines

THREE out of four UK drivers will not be taking any steps to make sure their cars are prepared for winter – despite last year's sub-zero temperatures and snowfalls which caused chaos on the roads.

All the major motoring organisations advise motorists to carry out a range of checks and safety measures and the Met Office is predicting a colder winter than in recent years.

Yet a survey undertaken by Motorpoint, the UK car supermarket, saw 75 per cent of respondents admit

they would be motoring on without precautions and hoping for the best.

The statistics are not in their favour. The AA puts extra patrols on call, because they expect the number of breakdowns to almost double during particularly cold spells.

Another breakdown service reports 50 per cent of winter calls for help are caused by battery problems.

Motorpoint operations director Paul Winfield said: "As the first automotive retailer to be a member of RoadSafe, we would always recommend our customers listen to their motoring organisation's advice on winter motoring – and also to take advantage of the low-cost winter preparation checks most garages now offer."

WHEN it comes to preparing for winter, the experts at the Automobile Association know what they are talking about.

So, any motorist would be well advised to take heed of their advice.

Winter is the season requiring most care and preparation if you're to stay safe and avoid a breakdown.

Here's the AA's general advice for safe and trouble free driving through the cold, dark months ahead...

Battery and electrics

Lights, heaters and wipers put high demands on the car battery. If your driving is mainly dark rush-hour trips, the battery will give out eventually.

Batteries rarely last longer than five years. Replacing one near the end of its life can save a lot of time and inconvenience at the side of the road.

Avoid running electrical systems any longer than necessary – turn the heater fan down and switch the heated rear window off once windows are clear.

If the car stands idle for most of the weekend, a regular overnight trickle charge is a good idea to give the battery a chance to revive.

Turn off non-essential electrical loads like lights, rear screen heater and wipers before trying to start the engine.

Use the starter in short five-second bursts if the engine doesn't start quickly, leaving 30 seconds between attempts to allow the battery to recover.

Antifreeze

A continuous squealing noise as soon as the engine is started is a sign the water pump is frozen – it's the fan belt slipping on the pulley.

The cylinder block could be frozen, too. Stop the engine immediately and allow it to thaw out.

This may take several days unless the car can be moved to a heated garage.

If the car begins to overheat a few miles from home, it's likely that the radiator has frozen, preventing coolant from circulating.

Stop straightaway, to avoid serious damage and allow the radiator to thaw.

Antifreeze costs only a

few pounds, but a frozen and cracked engine block will cost hundreds of pounds to repair.

Most modern cars use long-life antifreeze – it's important to use the right type and avoid mixing different types. Check the handbook or ask a dealer for advice.

Glycol-based antifreeze should be changed at least every two years.

You need a 50-50 mix of antifreeze and water in the cooling system for winter. This gives maximum protection down to -34° centigrade, and without it, severe engine damage costing hundreds of pounds can occur.

Vision

Keep the windscreen and other windows clear – if your vision is obscured through dirt, snow or even sticker-infested car windows, you could face a hefty fine.

Clear snow from the roof as well as from windows, as this can fall onto the windscreen obscuring your view. It can be a hazard to other road users as well.

Dazzle from a low winter sun can be a particular problem.

Improve vision by making sure that the windscreen is

clean both inside and out. Scratches, abrasion and chips on the outside can also worsen the dazzling effect of the sun.

Greasy smears on the screen that don't go with use of a normal screenwash additive will require a little elbow grease.

Try using a cream glass polish with a slight abrasive action. If that doesn't work, then try dishwasher powder dissolved in a little water.

Use clean kitchen paper to clean a small area at a time and try not to go back over a patch you've just done.

Use air conditioning for faster demisting and to reduce condensation on cold windows.

Check windscreen wipers and replace if necessary.

Make sure that wipers are switched off in the park position when leaving the car, when there's risk of freezing.

If you don't and the blades freeze to the screen, you could damage the blades or wiper motor when you turn the ignition on.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

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WINTER SERVICING

A Glamorgan GEM Advertisement Feature

KEEP YOUR CAR IN TIP TOP CONDITION!

DON'T TAKE RISKS WITH YOUR CAR!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

• Be careful not to press the electric window button out of habit. Hold that button too

long if the window is frozen in place and it can burn out the motor, leaving you with an expensive bill! (This one comes from personal

experience at The GEM!)

• Top up windscreen washer fluid and treat with a suitable additive to reduce the chance of freezing. Don't use ordinary engine anti-freeze, as it will damage paintwork.

Visibility
Make sure that all bulbs are working and that lenses are clean. When roads are really mucky, you might need to clean lights after every journey.

Keep the number plates clean, too, as you can be fined if they are dirty and illegible.

If you have to clear snow from the car, it's important to clear it from the lights – front and back – as well as

from the glass and roof.

You must use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced. You may also use front or rear fog lights but these must be switched off when visibility improves, as they can dazzle other road users and obscure your brake lights.

Tyres
The AA recommends at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring, and certainly no less than 2mm.

Don't reduce tyre pressures to get more grip – it doesn't work, and reduces stability.

It's rare to need snow chains unless you live in an isolated area hit with heavy snow, and where the roads are not cleared. They must be removed to drive on a metalled road without a reasonable covering of snow.

Consider changing to winter or all season tyres – these have a higher silica content in the tread which prevents it hardening at lower temperatures, and therefore gives better grip in cold wet conditions.

Before you go...

Get up at least 10 minutes early to give you time to prepare the car.

Don't drive off like a tank commander, with a tiny hole cleared in the windscreen. Clear all windows using a scraper and de-icer.

Use a cigarette lighter to warm a key for a

frozen lock. Don't breathe on the lock, as the moisture will condense and freeze.

Plan routes to favour major roads which are more likely to have been cleared and gritted.

Put safety before punctuality when the bad weather closes in. Allow extra time for winter journeys, but be prepared for the inevitability of being late for work due to unexpected delay.

Driving in snow and ice

Gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving – stopping distances are 10 times longer in ice and snow.

• Wear comfortable, dry shoes for driving. Cumbrous, snow-covered boots will slip on the pedals.

• Pull away in second gear, easing your foot off the clutch gently, to avoid wheel-spin.

• Up hill – avoid having to stop part way up by waiting until it is clear of other cars, or by leaving plenty of room to the car in front.

Keep a constant speed, choosing the most suitable gear well in advance, to avoid having to change down on the hill.

• Down hill – reduce your speed before the hill, use a low gear and try to avoid using the brakes. Leave as much room as possible between you and the car in front. If you have to

use brakes, then apply them gently. Release the brakes and de-clutch if the car skids.

• Automatic transmission – under normal driving conditions (motorways, etc) it's best to select 'Drive' and let the gearbox do the work throughout the full gear range.

In slippery, snowy conditions it's best to select '2', which limits the gear changes and also makes you less reliant on the brakes.

Some autos have a 'Winter' mode, which locks out first gear to reduce the risk of wheel spin. Check the handbook.

If you get stuck, straighten the steering

and clear the snow from the wheels.

Put a sack or old rug in front of the driving wheels to give the tyres

some grip. Once on the move again, try not to stop until you reach firmer ground.

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More than half of UK motorists admit feeling less safe driving in the winter, yet many of us do little to prepare our cars for the colder weather. Research commissioned by TyreSafe, the UK's leading tyre safety organisation, found the biggest worry for drivers in the winter is that they are more likely to have an accident as the roads feel more slippery.

Switching to winter tyres could dramatically increase your safety over the entire winter period and could even save you money. They're constructed to give you a much better grip, reducing your stopping distances on wet or icy roads. And because they are specially designed to operate in temperatures below 7°C, their wear rate is significantly better than normal 'summer' tyres in the colder winter months!

Last year, drivers struggled without winter tyres

- 54% of drivers said they felt less safe when driving in the winter.
- 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.
- 1 in 3 drivers skidded on Britain's roads.
- 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident
- 12% only narrowly avoided a collision.
- 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

Let's put a stop to accidents this winter

These stopping distances prove you're less likely to get in a scrape if you switch to winter tyres.

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Be aware of Highways Agency's winter campaign

THIS year, the AA is supporting the Highways Agency's 'Make time for winter' campaign. The Highways Agency has more than

500 winter service vehicles on standby, but crews need time and space to get ahead of traffic and keep the network clear. You can help by planning your journey around the weather:

- Be informed – check traffic and

weather.

- Be prepared – check your vehicle and carry an emergency kit.

- Be aware – winter teams need time and space to do their job

- Be wise – conditions may change, drive with care.

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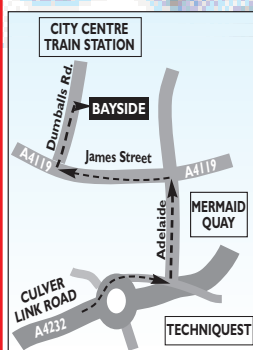
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CADETS WILL BRING SOME CHRISTMAS JOY



Barry Cadets helped a local organisation supply Christmas gifts for local children.

SADLY, there are still many children in this country who are at risk of receiving nothing at Christmas, but thanks to local Foresters' members, together with volunteer cadets from the Barry ATC 372 Squadron, 150 Christmas gift packs for sick and underprivileged children were recently put together to be distributed in the local area.

Foresters, an international financial services organisation which has operated in the UK, US and Canada for more than 135 years, is working with Cash for Kids, the charity umbrella brand for Bauer Radio stations, to support the 2011 Christmas Toy Appeal – and help light up the lives of thousands of less fortunate children in the area.

Foresters is committed to hands-on help through its members. Cash for Kids highlighted that there is always a shortage of presents for babies so the local Forester branch, St David 211 combined with the cadets to create the gifts for underprivileged babies.

The presents included useful items such as wipes and creams, as these children do not have the same advantages that our children and grandchildren do and are in need of these necessities.

In the UK last year, Foresters supported more than 100 charities and raised over £3 million for those charities and other community partners.

In 2010, Foresters sponsored the Christmas Toy Radio Appeal in nine locations and raised almost £2 million which provided grants and toys to over

200,000 underprivileged children and families in the UK.

This year, Foresters are sponsoring 12 locations, including Wales and western England.

Barry ATC 372 Squadron is open to young people 13 years and over and meets at its headquarters situated behind AG Adams, next to the Memorial Hall, every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm.

Busy November for Y Bont Faen school pupils

PUPILS and parents at Y Bont Faen Primary School had a busy November, as they prepare for Christmas.

On Friday, November 11, the sound of Bollywood was coming from the school as guests enjoyed a 'Wii and curry night' courtesy of the friends of Y Bont Faen PTA.

Chefs Richard Watson

and Dean Thomas cooked up Eastern delights to raise funds, while a few rounds of Wii resort and Just Dance provided entertainment on a grand scale.

Parents paid handsomely to watch head teacher Meic Griffiths perform, along with year-2 teacher Mrs Hayman and teaching assistants Mr Cottle and Mrs Rees.

They even paid more for encores!

The lighting and the staging were all just perfect, thanks to the PTA, who had just handed the school a cheque to pay for the new purpose-built 'Stackstage' – complete with ramps and LED lighting.

This has come just in time for the Christmas plays and we hope that the raised stage will provide both inspiration and a physical platform for our pupils' talents.

This year, the school has once again volunteered to be a drop off point for the 'Operation Christmas Child' shoe box collections.

Last year, 160 boxes were sent all over the world from Y Bont Faen!

If you have missed the deadline, you can make a 'virtual box' up online and still donate to this very worthy cause! Thank you to everyone who has kindly made up boxes for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The PTA has also organised a 'Bags2school' collection to recycle unwanted clothes, shoes and soft toys and are already up to 400 kg.

The Y Bontfaen family is being very green at the moment, working towards their Eco School Green Flag award, so please support them where you can!

JAYNE MORRIS



ABOVE: Park Independent Funeral Directors' Christmas Memorial Carol Service was attended by almost 200 people.

'Emotional and inspiring' Local people remember their loved ones at carol service

WITHIN two short years, Park Independent Funeral Directors' Christmas Memorial carol service has become an indispensable event in Barry for those wanting to remember their loved ones at a special time of the year.

Nearly 200 people attended this year's carol service on Saturday, November 26.

Lyndsay Ellis, principal of the firm, said: "It was so heartfelt and moving to see how many attended. It was officiated by Rev Clive Jones and was an uplifting and emotional occasion.

"I hope that it brought great comfort to many bereaved families at this special time of the

year." The service was open to everyone who wanted to remember a loved one, regardless of which funeral director they had used.

Lyndsay went on: "After the service it was overwhelming how many returned to the funeral home for mince pies, mulled wine and a moment to place their memorial tags with messages on our Christmas tree.

"The comments on the service were very positive and it was an honour that I could do this.

"To see the community brought together was so emotional, sharing memories of loved ones and witnessing the release of doves to symbolise this.

"I wish to thank the Assembly Member Jane Hutt for her kind

words and attendance, Dave Follett and members of New Jerusalem Church for all their support during the year, and for letting us use their garden as a Garden Of Reflection, the Vale Of Glamorgan Brass Band for their outstanding performance and Rev Clive Jones for a personal and comforting service.

"This service also could not have been done solely by myself if it wasn't for the loyalty, hard work and commitment of our staff, who worked so hard."

One woman contacted The GEM and said: "I was wondering whether to go to the service to remember my husband. I decided to go, and was so pleased I went.

"It was emotional and inspiring."

Schools support Velindre at Christmastime

WITH environmental issues high on everyone's agenda these days, Velindre Cancer Centre is encouraging everyone to think green, and think Velindre this Christmas.

Rather than spending on buying and posting Christmas cards that end up in the bin, Wales's largest cancer centre is encouraging schools and companies to support the environment and instead donate the money that would normally be spent to Velindre.

The head of fundraising at Velindre Cancer Centre, Andrew Morris said: "We have been very fortunate that for a number of years school staff in particular have decided not to send expensive Christmas cards to each other, but

instead have decided to donate what would have been spent on cards and postage to Velindre instead."

Among those taking part this year are Cadoxton Primary School in Barry and Croestry Primary School in Pencoed.

Angela Morris of Croestry Primary said: "Each year, every class is inundated with hundreds of cards sent between the children and if the money spent on them could be given to Velindre instead, many families dealing with cancer would benefit."

To get involved, contact Velindre Fundraising on 0292 0316211, email info@velindrefundraising.com or visit the website www.velindrefundraising.com

Peter Pan means pantomime time

COWBRIDGE, with Llanblethian Town Council, has engaged the services of a travelling entertainment group – to provide the town with a pantomime, Peter Pan, which will take place on December 15, in the Town Hall.

Expected to be a sell-out, the pantomime is intended for children and parents and will be full of the usual fun and frolics; a goodie, a baddie, sweets galore, daft songs, silly dances and even sillier jokes. Commenting on the venture, the chairman of the town council's Town Hall Committee, Coun David Morris, said: "It should be huge fun and provide the whole family with a great evening of enter-

tainment.

"We want to increase the use of the newly-refurbished town hall for community events and the pantomime should be a cracker!"

Tickets are priced at £5 and are available from the town hall office, Barnes Dry Cleaners and, on Sunday, November 27, at the Lesser Hall.

Tree lighting

YSTRADOWN will be holding its annual lighting of the Christmas tree with Christmas carols, mulled wine and mince pies on the village green at 7pm on Saturday, December 3. All are welcome.

Getting in mood for Christmas

COWBRIDGE Choral Society will present 'A Christmas Celebration' with carols on Saturday, December 10, at 7pm in Holy Cross Church.

The barbershop group, Mr Geoff Howells, organist, and two other soloists will also entertain.

Tickets are on sale from WG Davies of Cowbridge, Chris Williams, Opticians of Llantwit Major and choir members. Children under-12 admitted free of charge.

Check the website: www.cowbridgechoralsociety.co.uk

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cynnyr am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2011/01028/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyr: Retention of change of use to mixed retail and beauty salon
Location/Leoliad: Skin Studio, 112/113, Glebe Street, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2011/01076/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyr: Repair and replacement of part of roof. Repair boundary wall
Location/Leoliad: Old St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Road, Barry
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2011/01132/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyr: Retention of kitchen extract flue and air inlet unit
Location/Leoliad: Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2011/01118/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyr: Proposed rear extension over existing bar to form bedrooms, internal alterations and new ancillary building to form micro-brewery, arts and crafts shops and museum
Location/Leoliad: The Old Brewery, Eagle Road, Eglwys Brews

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Dated / Dyddiedig: 1st December, 2011

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT

BIG SCREEN

BIG Screen's Christmas presentation this year is the seasonal family favourite It's a Wonderful Life (U) which will be shown on Thursday, December 8 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

It stars James Stewart as depressed businessman George Bailey and Donna Reed as his wife. Contemplating suicide

after the loss of a considerable amount of money, George and his family are rescued by Clarence (Henry Travers), a compassionate angel.

Big Screen's Christmas present to its faithful audience is a free mince pie and a glass of wine, as well as the usual ice creams.

Doors open at 7.10pm and tickets are £3 (in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door, subject to availability).

Talented performers shine in Music in the Vale competition

LOCAL young musicians captivated audiences last weekend during two stunning Music in the Vale finalist concerts at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The annual competition saw singers aged eight to 24 competing on Saturday and instrumentalists aged eight to 21 on Sunday.

On Saturday morning it was touch and go that half of the singers would be heard, as the secretary received a phone call at 7.30am advising her that one of the adjudicators was unable to attend due to illness!

The fabulous Justine Viani, an Australian-British soprano, whose future engagements include the title role of Tosca for Opera de Bauge in July 2012, stepped into the breach and made it from Merthyr Tydfil to Cowbridge by 9am in time to hear the young singers perform.

Ms Viani heard 22 juniors aged eight to 12, with four to go through to the evening concert final.

She also heard the ensemble category, who could have been aged eight to 24 but were all 13 and under!

All three ensembles that competed were put through to the final. Jeffrey Howard, a well-known vocal coach and accompanist, was the other adjudicator.

Mr Howard heard 12 intermediates, aged 13-16 and seven seniors and was hard pressed to choose four from each category to progress to the final. For many of the young people taking part it was their first ever competition.

The four junior finalists were Rebekah Marie West, age 11 of Dinas Powys; Maddy M Carver, aged 10 of Penarth; Guy Roberts, aged 12 of Cardiff; and Bibiana Viazzani, aged 9 of Merthyr Tydfil.

The ensembles included two choirs from the Cathedral School Llandaff, Cantemus and the Junior Boys Choir, and a duo 'Bibiana and Molly' who met at the Louise Ryan vocal school in Cardiff.

The intermediates: Jodi Bird 13; Joseph Keenan 16; Megan Hain 13; all of Penarth and Taylor Flynn 13, of Swansea had the honour of rounding off the first half.

The standard of musicianship and performance was fabulous and the styles of music on show incredibly varied.

After a 20-minute interval, the senior singers took to the stage.

These were: Adam Gilbert 22, of Cowbridge currently studying at the Guildhall in London; Aoife O'Connell 23; Grace Wain 21; and Holly-Anna Lloyd 22; who are all studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

Results:

Junior soloists.
Winner – Bibiana Viazzani, runner-up – Rebekah Marie West.
Intermediate soloists.
Winner – Jodi Bird, runner-up – Joseph Keenan.

Senior soloist:
Winner – Grace Wain, runner-up Holly-Anna Lloyd.

A prize was also awarded to Adam Gilbert for the 'Most Promising Young Singer living in the Vale of Glamorgan'.

Sunday's competition for young instrumentalists started at 10am with Rosie Biss, principle cello for Welsh National Opera adjudicating the intermediate musicians, aged 12-16.

Rosie had the tough task of choosing just four to from a group of 20.

Peter Fielding, the retired Welsh National Opera sub-principle bass clarinet, was given the task of adjudicating 14 juniors (8-11) and six seniors (17-21).

He also had the slightly easier task of adjudicating the ensemble category, as there was only two entered but he still had to ensure they were of sufficient calibre to go through.

The challenge of opening the evening concert was again given to the youngest musicians: Jack Ollier (recorder) aged 8 from Barry; Aisha Kala-Palmer (piano) aged 10 from Caerphilly; Rhiannon Mainwaring (French horn) aged 11 from Port Talbot; and Sarosh Adenwalla (flute) from Cardiff.

Next to perform were the intermediates: Robin Gordana Tait (piano) 14, Cowbridge; Joseph Keenan (saxophone) 16, Penarth; Clarke Alonzi (violin) 15, Bridgend and Rachel Starritt (piano) 16, Bridgend.

The Ensembles: Trio Catara, all from the Vale, and The Lovell-Jones Boys of Cardiff were given the honour of rounding off the first half of the evening.

After a 20-minute interval it was the turn of the seniors: Jonathan Farey (French horn) 20, Cardiff; Megan Kirwan (cello) 17, Monmouth; Emyr Honeybun



Adam Gilbert of Cowbridge.

(piano) 20, Cardiff; and Joe Atkin-Reeves (saxophone) 19, Cardiff to round off the musical proceedings.

Jane Hutt Am was in the audience and said: "Once again, Music in the Vale has triumphed in its organisation of the Vale Young Musician of the Year."

"In every age group there were talented young musicians playing a range of instruments. I am sure we will see them again in future competitions thanks to the hard work of the volunteers of Music in the Vale."

Ellie Humphrey



Joe Atkin-Reeve with Vale AM Jane Hutt.



Jodi Bird from Penarth with Vale Council Leader Coun Gordon Kemp.



Clarke Alonzi from Bridgend.



Grace Wain.



Bibiana Viazzani.

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Children in Need

B A R R Y Comprehensive School's pupils and staff supported this year's Children in Need with a fabulous collection of fundraising activities.

Pupils paid £1 each to wear their own clothes for the day, while year-12 Welsh Baccalaureate students organised the activities.

The sixth formers put in lots of hard work and showed real dedication by staying late after school and coming in early to help prepare a massive range of activities, including laser tag, boxing kangaroos, sumo wrestling, pugil stick duels, balance beam battles, giant connect-4, giant buzz-wire, giant jenga and a basketball challenge as well as filling the sports hall with giant inflatables.

Josh Bell (year-8) won the basketball challenge by shooting the most basketballs against the clock.

Everyone joined in the spirit if the day, continuing the success of last year's event to produce a great day for

Barry Comprehensive School and a sizable donation to Children in Need.

Off by heart

B A R R Y Comprehensive pupils Nick Currie and Adam Owens attended the BBC's 'Off By Heart' Shakespeare competition in Bristol, on Friday, November 11.

The boys, from year-9, won the school heats run by the English and drama departments in the summer term before moving on to the national competition.

Nick and Adam competed against 112 other pupils from all over Wales and the south west of England.

They had practised and perfected a famous Shakespeare speech which they performed in front of judges from the BBC and the world of theatre.

Although they were not one of the four pupils chosen to go through to the next round, both pupils were commended for their individual performances and, throughout the process, were a real credit to Barry Comprehensive School.



Ready to enter the laser tag arena.



ABOVE: Nick and Adam at the 'Off by Heart' competition.

LEFT: An ambitious move on the giant Jenga.

You can now find The GEM on Facebook - just visit www.facebook.co.uk/gemnews and keep in touch with what's going on in your area!

PUPILS GET THEIR OWN BACK ON TEACHERS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

PUPILS at Rhws primary School got their own back on Children in Need day – while raising money for charities.

Pupils donated money to come to school in spotty clothing, pyjamas or as their favourite teacher. They took part in a charity cake sale and hair braiding, and competed against each other to see who could bring in the most small change; all brilliantly organised by the school council pupils.

But the culmination of the day was when the teachers and school council members, in front of the whole school, took part in a 'beat the teacher' quiz.

Teachers were asked questions on a range of categories and if the school council member got it right, then the teacher was forced to do a forfeit, chosen by their class members. T

The forfeits ranged from putting feet in baked beans, to getting a custard pie in the face – from juggling bananas wearing funny glasses, to singing while dunking their face in rice pudding!

The children loved this day and finally got their own back! The school raised over £630 for Children in Need and a children's charity in Nicaragua. Well done, Rhws Primary School!

KELSEY BIBBY
(Rhws Primary School)



Year-6 pupils in costume.



4M pupils in costume.



2R pupils in costume.



Reception pupils in costume.



1S pupils in costume.



The audience eagerly await the show.



Mr Baker does his forfeit



2B pupils in costume



The year-6 host with the most.



ABOVE and LEFT: The school council panel.

RIGHT: 1G pupils in costume.





ABOVE, front: Alun Cairns MP and Bob Neill MP, with Dinas Powys residents (back row).

'Essex boy' home from home at Gavin & Stacey's!

BARRY has become a must-visit location for Essex residents as a result of the Gavin & Stacey TV show, according to Local Government Minister and 'Essex boy' Bob Neill MP.

He visited south Wales last week to gain a better understanding of

issues in the area and included Dinas Powys in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The visit with the 1 Vale MP, Alun Cairns, included a call to the Essex home from the hit BBC comedy, which is really a property in Dinas Powys.

Bob Neill MP, in his role as the Minister for Communities and Local Government, is also Minister with responsi-

bilities for pubs, and took the opportunity to chat to local publicans, including the landlord of The Star in Dinas Powys.

The Vale MP hosted a lunch for the Minister with local residents at The Star Inn, after a morning of meetings with publicans across south Wales.

"Bob Neill hails from Essex and he had been telling me how Barry, and Gavin & Stacey's homes, were a 'must-visit' destination for the residents of Essex since the smash hit success of the series," said Mr Cairns.

"I was delighted to be able to take the Minister to Gavin's 'home' in Dinas Powys, where we were warmly greeted by the owners of the property used in the series."

"The lunch at The Star with local residents provided an enjoyable ending to the Minister's visit to Wales," he added.

IN BRIEF

A gift and craft fair at the Barry YMCA Hub on Sunday, December 11 between 10am and 3pm, will raise funds for the charity Delta, which supports deaf children and their families.

RNLI service
THE annual Lifeboat service of nine lessons and carols with the Cavatina Singers, will be held at St Augustine's Church, Penarth, on December 14 at 7pm.

A warm welcome is extended to all and tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Penarth fayre

CHRISTMAS fayre with Santa at Trinity Methodist Church, Penarth, on Saturday, December 10, between 10am-12noon.

Stalls include cakes, Christmas gifts and flowers. Entrance £2 (children admitted free) to include coffee and mince pies and visit to Santa.

Members of PODS will be singing at 10am.

LLANTWIT MAJOR RESERVES COWBRIDGE TOWN

the Town keeper saved well from Jennings, then Phillips respectively.

Then in a hectic 10 minute period, a total of four goals were scored between the two teams, only to be subsequently disallowed.

First up Jennings thought he had bagged a brace with a fine header but the referee pulled play back for an infringement in the build up.

Next it was Cowbridge's turn to be thwarted, when the visitors' number 6, saw his cross-shot stabbed in on the line by the Town striker, who was adjudged to be in an off-side position.

Then it was the home team's turn to have a goal ruled offside; Phillips' excellent run was spotted by James Austin, the

LLANTWIT MAJOR RESERVES COWBRIDGE TOWN

the Town keeper saved well from Jennings, then Phillips respectively.

Then in a hectic 10 minute period, a total of four goals were scored between the two teams, only to be subsequently disallowed.

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Then it was the home team's turn to have a goal ruled offside; Phillips' excellent run was spotted by James Austin, the

midfield livewire through ball was brilliantly finished by the big number 9 but to no avail. The fourth goal

Town had the majority of possession in the mid-field area, but just couldn't penetrate the Major back four of Vincent, Major, Grahame and Howles.

Despite 15 minutes of Town pressure Llantwit were still threatening on the counter-attack with Phillips' excellent hold up play and the sheer pace of the enigmatic Tom Mawhinney.

Mawhinney was cynically felled in the penalty area and regular penalty taker Jack Grahame confidently stepped up, only to see his well struck effort spectacularly saved by the Cowbridge goalkeeper.

Mawhinney then had the chance to notch the third goal himself following a mistake by the Town centre back. The

youngster had just the keeper to beat, but again the visiting stopper came out on top - to further deter the home team.

Llantwit comfortably saw out the remainder of the game to preserve top

spot in the league.

This was a superb team performance which had a mixture of good work rate and quality and composed football, and with three Llantwit goals disallowed and the Town 'keeper on fine form the scoreline probably flattered the opposition a little.

While an excellent all round performance, there were a few stand out performers for the man of the match award.

Youth players Tom Mawhinney and Tom Howles were exceptional, while Stephen Phillips had his best game in a Llantwit shirt; however the accolade went to Gethin Jennings for his lung bursting work rate in defence and his creative instinct in attack.

Team: M Jackson, T Howles, J Grahame, A Vincent, G Jennings, D Bevan, D Major (Capt), T Mawhinney, S Phillips, T Bevan, J Austin. Subs: L Jennings, L Tracey, I Phillips, S Mawhinney.

DC

Just two winners for the three titles at RAF St Athan Golf Club!

EACH year the members of RAF St Athan Golf Club usually has three new champions to congratulate at their annual presentation evening; the junior champion, the lady champion and the club champion; however, this year there were just two golfers who were the proud recipients of the coveted championship titles which were played for on the club's finals day held in September.

The ladies' final saw Jayne Williams compete against Liz Thomas, both players coming runner-up in the same final in 2009 and 2010 respectively, but at the end of the match play game it was Liz who emerged victorious to claim the ladies championship title.

There was not one member of the club who could deny Kyle Harman's family the pride they showed when Kyle was called forward by chairman of play Steve Thomas to collect both the junior and the club championship trophies.

Craig Sherman lost the championship final to Kyle but he led the charge to shake hands and congratulate him, quickly followed by Ryan Harris, who was defeated in the junior final.

RIGHT:
The Harman family was delighted to see Kyle pick up two titles.

Kyle thanked his fellow golfers and his family, his mum for ferrying him around so that he can continue with his sporting activities and a special mention was made for his dad, who unfortunately could not be present owing to work commitments. Kyle said his dad would be very proud of him and RAF St Athan Golf Club members are all very proud of you as well.

Presentation night at RAF St Athan Golf Club is always a well attended event with an array of crystal trophies being awarded to the golfers who have been successful in competitions throughout the year.

This year was no exception, with the table laden with crystal alongside the clubs silverware. The prestigious competition boards have been updated with the names of the 2012 winners and now become part of the club's history.

There are two awards that are presented each year, with the members not knowing the recipients until they are announced.

The first is the club person of the year and the club committee voted Hugh Williams for the tireless and ongoing work he selflessly carries out on the course - a job too often criticised but seldom congratulated.

The playing commit-



tee has the decision on the Kyle Trophy recipient; this is awarded to the golfer who achieves a significant handicap reduction, has shown success in competitions and who is a good example both on and off the course.

The committee had to deliberate between five members who fell into this category but their decision proved correct when the announcement was made the clubhouse erupted into thunderous applause for junior Dion Thomas, a player who can often be seen practising alone in all weather conditions.

Many congratulations to all of the club's golfers, take pride in knowing that even if you lost in your competition, you enabled somebody to win!

A full list of the competition winners can be found on the club's website
www.rafstathangc.co.uk.
Carol Morgan

Tudor reigns

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor landed the UC Better Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las on Monday on the nine-year-old MickMacMagooole

He won by one and three quarter lengths from the fancied Azione, and Tudor, who had ridden a point-to-point winner for Alan Hill at Black Forest Lodge 24 hours earlier, is assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams who trains the horse.

Williams had just two runners at the meeting and won with both of them as earlier in the day his six-year-old

MakeTheMostOf Now, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, took the Gwendraeth Fawr Maiden Hurdle by two lengths from Buddy Bolero.

With the former starting at 9-2, and the latter at 9-1, backers were rewarded with a 55-1 double.

Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan saw his five-year-old Ashes House, partnered by Richard Johnson, romp home a 20 lengths winner of the Digibet.Com Open National Hunt Flat race.

Ashes House a 11-4 chance beat the odds-on favourite Manor Court.

BRIAN LEE

BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS

The Welsh Blood Service will be holding events at Memorial Hall, Bryncoch, Bryncethin, Bridgend, December 2 10am - 6pm; Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshoard, Cowbridge, December 4, 10am - 4pm and December 5, 10am - 6pm; Ibis Court, Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, December 6, 10am - 6pm; December 7, 10am - 6pm (please call 01443 622193 to make an appointment).

Blockbuster show at the Art Central



ABOVE: Coun John Clifford, pictured with Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, officially opened the 'Light' exhibition.

A LARGE, convivial crowd gathered at the opening of 'Light', an exhibition by the Vale of Glamorgan Artists held in Art Central, Kings Square, Barry on Saturday afternoon.

Coun John Clifford, Mayor of the Vale of

Glamorgan, officially opened the event that exhibits paintings, ceramics and sculptures.

The gallery is open to the public, with free admission, from 10am - 4pm, Tuesday - Saturday, until January 14.

Poignant link with 'Bloody April' 1917

1630HRS – the crews of two BE2e's make their final preparations for a sortie over enemy lines – the month was April 1917, the 29th to be exact.

The British and Canadian infantry had gone over the top and faced some of the most impregnable positions in the German Lines, but this battle was fought not only in the mud and trenches on the ground, but also in the air.

The Royal Flying Corp using obsolete planes flew hundreds of missions to pinpoint the German defences and artillery, and directed the British guns to destroy them before the infantry attack.

In what was to be known as Bloody April, the Royal Flying Corps suffered the most appalling casualties, in its and subsequent history of the Royal Air Force.

It defined, by the end of April 1917, the average life expectancy of a new pilot to a matter of days.

At 1645hrs the two aircraft lifted off from the grass strip airfield of Avesnes-le-Comte, to flying Art Obs (Artillery

Observations) over the Chemical Works at Roex.

The crew of BE2e No 2738 comprised a 25-year-old Welshman from Cadoxton Barry, David Evan Davies, the pilot and his Canadian Observer George Henry Rathbone (aged 21 years), who had only joined 12 Sqn RFC days before on the 05 Apr. The two aircraft made their way towards the east, Arras and the front line...

David Evan Davies, known as 'Dan' was born in Penarth 1892 to Welsh-speaking Thomas and Ann Davies, a coal tipper from 175 Crogan Hill, Cadoxton - a district of Barry in the Vale. Like most in Cadoxton, Thomas Davies worked in nearby Barry Docks, and the Davies' was a decidedly working class Welsh family.

Like many in the Welsh valleys, education was highly prized, none more so than in the community of Barry; in 1886 the Barry County School open its doors to 110 boys and girls who had been granted scholarships on passing the eleven-plus examination.

Under the Headmastership of Dr

Edgar Jones, Dan attended this school, which had established a formidable reputation as a school of excellence.

In fact, the school under Jones's stewardship inspired generations of pupils, who numbered among their ranks, a Governor of Cyprus, a Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, University professors, a Liberal MP, a host of lawyers, doctors, industrialists and businessmen, two famous cartoonists and a Secretary to Lloyd George.

It was from this academic foundation that Dan Davies was to earn a place at Cardiff University College. Described as a brilliant scholar, he graduated as a Master of Science...

On leaving university, this gifted young man joined the Civil Service and obtained a posting to the West Indies.

However, like many young men of that era, Dan was not found wanting at the outbreak of the First World War.

Impetuous and keen to do his bit, Dan returned from Colonial Service and enlisted as a Private in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, serving for a year in France before he was recommended for a commis-

sion. He volunteered to be a pilot in the fledgling Royal Flying Corps.

On his commission, his parents presented him with an anthology of prose and verse entitled *The Land of My Fathers – A Welsh Gift Book*.

This book was commissioned by Mrs Lloyd George and published on behalf of the National Fund for Welsh Troops - the sale of which went to provide additional comforts for Welsh regiments at home and abroad.

The flyleaf was inscribed 'To Dan On Your Commission, from Ma and Papa. Love from all at Crogan Hill'. In Dan's own hand he has added 'Lt D E Davies 12 Squadron RFC 8-4-17'.

Following pilot training Dan was posted to 12 Squadron, based at Avesnes-le-Comte, and then into the maelstrom of the bloodiest and most costly episodes in RFC history...

Like so many, Dan's association with the RFC was to be all too short lived...

The battle on the ground for Arleux had been raging for some forty hours, and the lateness of the day meant the light was beginning to fade. There was, however, enough light for one last sortie, the Art Obs flight by our two RFC aircrafts.

The airspace over Arras was being dominated by sheer numbers of Royal Flying Corps operations being flown; however, they did not

have air superiority for this was the hunting ground of the 'Wolves of the Air' – Justa 11 – the famous 'Richthofen Circus'.

It was into the Von Richthofen lair that Dan and his accompanying fellow aircrew approached at low level. A contemporary account written in April 1917 by a fellow 12 Sqn Observer, gives an indication of what it was like in the air over the front at that time.

2nd Lt Francis Penny wrote... "This was my first close-up of the line... I was interested in what was going on below, when suddenly the tat-tat of a machine gun was heard from an enemy aircraft..."

"I could see pieces of wing fabric fluttering in the wind where the enemy bullets had gone through.

Between the pilot and observer was a communication tube, but conversations could hardly be heard above the noise of the engine and exhaust. What the pilot said, cannot be repeated..."

Penny and his pilot were lucky, others were not so fortunate.

Fresh from kills earlier in the day, the Richthofen brothers – Manfred and Lothar – took off from Douai airfield, after spending some time in the presence of their father earlier that afternoon.

Richthofen had already claimed his 49th victory (Lt Richard Applin 19 Sqn flying Spad VII No B1573, shot down at 1205hrs) and his 50th at 1655hrs

– a FE2D No 4898 (Jahore No 14) of 18 Sqn piloted by Sgt George Steed and Acting Cpl Alfred Beebee.

Beebee was described by his Commanding Officer as "by far the best gunner/observer we have".

The brothers, flying their Albatros DIII's, encountered the two BE2es of 12 Sqn at 1925hrs near Roex on the German side of the lines.

The combat report by Manfred von Richthofen describes how he saw the two artillery flyers approaching their front; he found it impertinent that these two obsolete, slow and poorly-armed aircrafts would be flying without an escort.

He waved his wings at his brother to signify the start of their attack run. Increasing their speed, the brothers stalked their prey, manoeuvring the two aircraft into their favourite attack position, under the tail of the two-seater British

aircraft.

After a short fight, a burst of machine guns fired into the B2e of Dan Davies collapsed the wings of the aircraft.

When the aircraft hit the ground, near trenches close to Roex, it caught fire. Dan Davies and George Rathbone were Richthofen's 51st victims.

Lothar engaged the other aircraft in the flight flown by Lt's Cyril John Pile and John Howard Westlake, and wrote afterwards that he observed his elder's brother's engagement barely 500 feet away.

"I had time to study the struggle and I must say that I myself could not have done better. He rushed his man, and both were turning round each other. Suddenly, the enemy machine reared".

He believed the pilot, Dan Davies, had been struck by a bullet... "The wings collapsed and the plane fell... I flew toward my brother and we congratulated

each other by waving."

Richthofen flew on, claiming his 52nd victory at 1940hrs (a Sopwith Triplane No N5463 of 8 Sqn RNAS, flown by Flt Sub-Lt Albert Edward Cuzner).

The two B2e's crashed in close proximity to each other.

The aircrew's bodies were never recovered and are commemorated, along with more than 1000 other airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force, on the beautiful colonnade Memorial to the Missing in Arras.

In all, the RFC lost 131 aircraft during that 'Bloody April' in 1917.

David Evan 'Dan' Davies is also commemorated on the Barry War Memorial Hall Memorial.

ROB LOVESEY

My link to this story - I have that anthology of prose and verse, so lovingly inscribed by his proud parents... Land of My Fathers – A Welsh Gift Book.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Tramping through the marshes of Wentloog!

RECENTLY, William took his party of seven walkers up to Marshfield, assuring them that this would be a totally flat walk in Wales, which is rather unusual.

On a damp and misty morning, they parked near the village church of St Mary's and headed out through the churchyard towards St Brides Wentlooge.

Wentlooge (or Wentloog) derives from the anglicised corruption of Gwynllwg, a 5th or 6th century ruler of the coastal plain that stretched between the Rhymney and Usk rivers.

The Gwent levels back then would have been a salt marsh, regularly covered by the tide, and even to this day can still be very wet and muddy.

The small hamlet of St Bride's Wentlooge stands on reclaimed land from the Bristol Channel, behind the sea wall and is criss-crossed with drainage ditches known locally as reens, from the Welsh Rhewyn.

Reens are ditches or small canals used to turn areas of wetland at sea level into pasture land and the water levels are controlled by a series of sluice gates or pumps, which allows the land to become wet at certain times of the year in order to improve the grass.

Originally, back in history, this area would have been drained by the Romans and today it is monitored by the Caldicot and Wentlooge Internal Drainage Board, and because of the abundance of wildlife attracted to the area, large parts have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Following quiet paths beside the reens, which are regularly cleaned and dredged, the group reached St Bride's Church, dedicated to the Irish St Bridget, with its distinctive leaning tower. In the porch a plaque commemorates the disastrous flood of 1606 caused by very high spring tides combined with a torrential storm.

The flood broke through the sea

wall defences that were in place at the time and drowned people as far away as Marshfield, which is some two miles inland.

They tramped on along muddy paths and across footbridges and arrived at the sea wall close to the Lighthouse Inn. The current sea wall stretches for more than 15 miles from just south of Chepstow to the eastern edge of Cardiff, with only one break at the River Usk.

Turning west along the sea wall, the group gazed over the salt marsh and mud flats and spotted eider ducks, oyster catchers and curlews feeding.

Moving on, they took a short break at Peterstone Gout, a tidal flap situated on the Usk estuary that controls the outfall of the sea near Peterstone Wentlooge. It is the main drainage point from the Wentlooge levels, and is monitored by Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Enjoying a short break, the group spotted an egret before continuing their journey for around half a mile, to then turn inland and join a track leading to Peterstone Wentlooge.

Then the group headed back out across the levels towards Marshfield, where on the outskirts of the village, great care was taken where the public footpath crosses the four tracks of the main Cardiff to Newport railway line.

All that was left was a trek through Marshfield via the local playing field where they enjoyed a lunch stop before joining Church Lane and making their way back to St Mary's Church.

On December 7, meet at 9am in the viaduct car park, Porthkerry Park for a 10.5-mile moderate circular walk taking in Penmark and Llancafarn; contact William on 01446 747239.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, contact the walk leader for advice.

JOY STRANGWARD

Primary school charity fun day

ON Friday, November 18, hats at home.

Cadoxton Primary School Council's fund day went ahead – with help from the teachers.

There was a cake sale, a second hand book sale and children paid 50p to enter the 'spotty hat' competition. Children had made their own spotty

There was a winner in every class and they won a chocolate orange each.

A total of £400 was raised and lots of fun was had all round!

The money will be split between Ty Hafan and Children in Need. JH

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS - KING'S SQUARE, BARRY

FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council has made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:

WHEREAS the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority is satisfied that traffic on the streets or parts thereof as listed in column 2 of the Schedule should on 2nd December 2011 be restricted to enable the holding of a relevant event, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services vehicles and resident permit holders between the hours specified in column 3 of the schedule.

The penalty for infringement of this regulation is a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Schedule 1

Column 1

Friday 2nd December 2011

Column 2

The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street.

Column 3

18.00 – 21.00

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 1st day of December 2011

**M Punter, Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA**



NEWS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG

Pupils go on two-week adventure

IT has been a very exciting two weeks for pupils in years 5 and 6 at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig.

Firstly, year-5 children spent five days at Abernart Lake Hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells, mid Wales. Here the children experienced climbing, abseiling, canoeing, archery and many other activities.

"It was a very exciting place to go, full of challenging activities for us all", was the view of Callum Jones, a pupil in year-5.

Year-6 went on their annual trip to the Urd camp in Llangrannog, west Wales. Here they tried sking, horse riding, trampolining and tobogganing.

Elin Jones, a year-6 pupil, said: "I'm already looking forward to com-

ing back in year-7, it's great being away with all my friends."

On a lighter note, three male staff members are unshaven after year-6 teacher Mr McAvoy finally succumbed to the constant itching and caved in!

Several fathers have joined our campaign to raise money in the 'November' campaign and we thank them for their support!

Bu lot o gymrwyr yn ddiweddar gwyda blynyddoedd 5 a 6 yn mynychu cyrsiau preswyl yng Nghymru. Fe aeth blynyddyn 5 i ganolbarth Cymru a fe aeth blynyddyn 6 yn holl ffordd lawr i Langrannog. Fe wnaeth bob plentyn fwynhau'r profiadau a gynnigwyd iddynt a rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r holl staff a ofalodd amdanynt.

RJ

Saints are stunned as slump continues

SUNDAY SAINTS were shocked at home by Litchard Park A as the visitors became only the second team to inflict defeat on Saints at home in two years.

Saints and Litchard had already played each other twice this season in league and cup and Saints had come out on top in both encounters but expected a hard-fought game.

Litchard started well and used the ball intelligently, with neat passing in the middle of the park but just lacked that final ball.

Saints were more direct and an Alan Lawson ball over the top to Phil Morgan saw the first chance well saved by the away keeper.

Jordan Mortimore then saw his free kick well saved to the keeper's left before Morgan again had a chance but sent it wide, before Dean Cleave saw his header blocked by the keeper after a good cross from Morgan.

Stand-in goalkeeper for Saints, Andrew Casey, then saw action as he blocked with his feet from a Litchard forward after his defence were caught in possession, and then showed good positioning as a low drive was well held.

The best chance of the half then fell to Litchard

Bridgend & District Sunday Premier League
Sunday Saints
Litchard Park A

1
3

as a corner was whipped in and a Litchard player stuck out a toe, only to see his goal-bound effort cleared off the line by Saints skipper Nicky Cox.

The first half came to a close with clear-cut chances few and far between, and Saints were feeling confident that they could make the breakthrough with more of the same in the second half.

Both teams went at each other in the second period but were restricted to long range efforts as they continued to cancel each other out.

Saints, however, finally made the breakthrough and deservedly so.

A quick James Austin throw saw Mortimore race onto the ball on the right and drive a low cross into the box for Morgan to slide the ball into the net from six yards for his 15th goal of the season.

Saints almost doubled their lead moments later as Mortimore saw his effort scrambled clear.

Litchard then equalised from nowhere as a long looping throw into the box went over the Saints defence, and Casey in goal instinctively tried to block the

ball but it skimmed his fingers and landed in the net for a fortuitous leveller.

Litchard were buoyed by their stroke of luck and moments later saw a fantastic effort from distance strike the underside of the bar and come back out. The referee ruled the ball had not crossed the line.

Litchard then thought they had scored again when a good strike beat Casey but rebounded off one post, rolled across the line and hit the other before being cleared.

Litchard did take the lead after Austin fouled the forward just outside the area and the driven free kick was blocked by Casey, but a Litchard player was first to react and steered the rebound in from close range with minutes remaining.

Saints searched desperately for an equaliser and saw efforts from Cleave, Lewis, Mortimore, Cox and Morgan wide or well saved.

With seconds remaining, Saints won a free kick and sent nearly everybody forward – but the free kick was cleared and Litchard broke away to seal a good away win for the visitors.

Saints' mini slump

has now become a crisis as they find themselves without a win in five and, after topping the league all season after their early season form, they now find themselves in second place after rivals Maerdy won to go ahead of them, albeit on goal difference.

Saints were left stunned by Litchard's late charge and need to find a win from somewhere to get their season back on track.

With only five points separating the top four, the league is proving to be a very close and exciting affair, and Saints know there are many twists and turns to come.

Saints get a break from the league next week as they face table-topping Maerdy in the league cup semi-final at home, at St Athan Community Centre, 11am kick off.

Man of the match went to James Austin after a lively display.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw works), Kinsale Stone Co (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and the continued and valued support from Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan.

HD



Included in the picture are: Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Jessica Richards, Katie Gunston, Tom Howles, Hugo Billington, Ben Owen, Sam Pickford, Chris Ferrier (5x60 officer), Jade Williams (200m runner), Jodie Ackland, Ellie Atkinson, Erin Hayes, Emma Young, Megan Davies, Rebecca Bown and Chloe Phillips.

Llantwit Comprehensive School sports presentation

LLANTWIT Major physical education department recently held its sports presentation evening.

This gave the department an opportunity to celebrate its many successes from the previous year,

both academic and sporting.

As always, the event was kindly supported by local sporting personalities and the department would like to thank Ospreys' scrum half Rhys Webb and Jade Williams, Welsh 200m sprinter, for their involvement in making it such a memorable evening for parents and pupils alike.

The evening began with gymnastic displays from Sara Belezny, Ellen Jenkins, Chelsea Dawes and Tamara Pitt.

It was followed by the presentation of more than 100 awards, including player of the year for all sports played competitively in school; junior and senior sports personalities; a 5x60 award for participation; endeavour awards for those who make a significant contribution to the sporting lives of others in school; and a celebration of international honours.

Cowbridge under-13s step up form

IN A MONTH of mixed fortunes, Cowbridge under-13s finally showed their full potential with a comprehensive display of rugby to beat Pontyclun 43-0.

The home side played as a team for the first time this season, with the pack functioning as an unit and the backs showing speed and flair to outclass their opponents.

The second half started with a bang as No 8 Dan Bunney scored a fine individual try to increase the home side's lead.

Sean Davies added his second try to the score sheet shortly afterwards and Rhys Beynon scored Cowbridge's sixth try with 10 minutes remaining.

Pontyclun refused to give up, despite being under continual to pressure and came close scoring on a few occasions but good tackling by Ben Terry, Charlie Martin and Tomos Evans-Williams kept the scoresheet clean.

With a few minutes left, replacements Ollie Rampling and Will Couzins set up a ruck from which second row Josh Evans picked up and forced his way over for the final try.

Cai Evans, who kicked well throughout the game, converted a further two tries to see Cowbridge through to their biggest win of the season.

Full back Charlie Pegrum came into the line and, after drawing his man, perfectly provided a try-scoring pass for Harrison Stevens. Centre Michael Thomas added a well-worked third try before half time to give Cowbridge a 19-0 lead

RAF engineer is on a wave



PICTURED: CT Lee Medway in action

MOD St Athan windsurfer Chief Technician Lee Medway secured third place at his first attempt at the 2011 UK Masters wave competition series, run by the British Wavesailing Association (BWA).

The four nations' series started in May and saw Lee complete back-to-back rounds in Anglesey and Brandon Bay in Ireland, before the summer break.

After a five-month gap, the tour reconvened on Tiree in the Scottish Hebrides.

The remote and exposed island saw the competitors brave Atlantic storm-force wind and waves to compete for the 'Tiree Wave Classic' title.

CT Medway said: "Without the encouragement and support of Royal Air Force Sailing Association (RAFSA) and the other members of

the RAF team, I wouldn't have been able to do it.

"My confidence grew as the tour progressed, which was really handy because conditions became much more challenging as the competition worked its way through the four event series."

The final round at Gwithian, Cornwall saw Lee among a record-breaking number of competitors, battling it out in mast-high waves and a kit smashing shore-break.

Jim Brooks-Dorsett, BWA event organiser said: "It's been great to see such a good team of guys from the RAF on the BWA wave tour. Their sailing has gone from strength-to-strength, with regular top results in the Amateurs and Masters, and some of the best team spirit we've seen on the tour! These guys are real characters and do a fantastic job of helping to push the sport in the UK!"

JB

Under-9s are making progress



LEFT: Cowbridge under-9s, who performed well against St Peter's in Cardiff.

COWBRIDGE under-9s visited St Peter's in Cardiff and, at last, recent shows of considerable promise came to fruition in two excellent performances.

Game one – St Peter's 0 Cowbridge 8.

The teamwork was unrecognisable from the beginning of the season. St Peter's started in possession, but good defence led to a turnover which ended some time later with a try for Oliver Jarman.

Shortly after, again from a turnover, Jake Williams crossed for Cowbridge's second try.

Cowbridge's speed of thought was epitomised by a great move on the blind side of a scrum, started by Jake Williams, which almost resulted in a try for Harry Whittaker.

Soon after, David Harris scored Cowbridge's third try.

There then followed a lengthy period of Cowbridge pressure, and finally Charlie Locke won the ball on the ground and Cowbridge scored their fourth try through Ioan Davies, who is one of the

most quietly consistent players in the team.

In the second half, the boys maintained the same level. All action Jake Williams contributed two further tries, with Jack Reilly and Rhys Williams scoring the remaining two.

Game two – St Peter's 4 Cowbridge 9

Cowbridge continued in the same vein, largely overrunning St Peter's and showing tremendous commitment.

The first try was scored by Jay Downes, followed by one shortly after by Harri Howkins. One person who didn't score a try but who played his part defensively was Elis Greenwood, who at one point made four tackles consecutively.

Defensive efforts such as this led to the ball being turned over for a further try for Jay Downes. Possibly the high point of the morning was a tremendous break for a try by Dewi Williams.

St Peter's responded by scoring their first try of the day for a half time score of 4-1 to Cowbridge.

Just after the break, St Peter's scored from long distance. Tom

Pugh made an excellent break, followed by a couple of excellent tackles.

It was then the Harri Howkins' show, as he scored three consecutive tries.

One of these followed excellent teamwork with a number of players supporting the ball carrier, and for another he showed great strength to force his way over.

St Peter's scored two further tries and the game finished with two for Cowbridge by James Gilvear who on each occasion showed great determination to get over the line.

The coaches' work on movement of the ball is clearly paying off.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Ioan Davies, Jay Downes, Griff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Elis Greenwood, David Harris, Robbie Howkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Joe Marshman, Tom Pugh, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams and Rhys Williams.

JS

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

The girls came back as champions!

ON November 20, the school attended the Inter-schools' Cross Country Championships in Brecon.

The event is held for all the schools in Wales, and is well attended by hundreds of pupils. Furthermore, the standard is outstanding.

In the under-14s boys race, Tom Wright, Rhys Bradshaw, Sam Corkill, Josh Peterson, Dewi Bennett, and Luke Jenson-Brown came fifth overall, and were only two places away from fourth place.

In the under-16s boys race, Alex Love and Rian Thomas ran individually, and finished the race very respectfully in 43rd and 51st place.

In the under-14s girls race, Selina Radcliffe, Lowri Morgan, Rhiannon Medcott, Seren Allen, Cerys Bradsaw, Alicia Thomas, Ffion Vickers and Niamh Jenkins all raced.

The girls finished fifth overall, but a big congratulations has to go out to Seren Allin who came in second. With 108 girls taking part, this was an immense effort and an excellent performance.

In the under-16s girls race, Ela Emyr, Rebecca Thomas, Nadine James, Alice Tudor and Brooke Cryer all ran a fantastic race. So fantastic, in fact, that the girls finished as the top team, and brought home the championship.

Cowbridge have not managed to win this championship in three years, but now it will hold an impressive spot in the school's trophy cabinet.

In the senior race, Jessica Jaques, Bethan White, Melissa Gooding, and Fiona Bray did not do as well as the year-9 girls, but still managed to come second overall, and were runners-up in the championship.

NETBALL THE year-7 and 8 netball team played against Brynteg at home on Wednesday, November 24.

The year-7 team got off to a solid start, scoring the first goal of the match from Selina Radcliffe at GA. Excellent defence from Eleanor Lewis at GK, Bethan Lowrie at GD and Hannah Sloan at WD, ensured Brynteg were denied shooting opportunities and the score was 5-0 at half time.

In the second half, Brynteg made some initial changes which made the game a much more closely-fought contest. Great attacking play and feed into the circle from Robyn Edwards at C provided a vital oppor-

tunity for Kaya Vandemeer at GS to capitalise and secure a final goal for Cowbridge.

The year-8 team got off to a flying start, surging ahead to 12-0 by half-time. The girls showed flare and variety in attack and strength and depth in defence to deny Brynteg scoring opportunities.

In the second half, a complete change of positions for the Cowbridge girls tested their knowledge and skill. The girls performed exceptionally well, despite defence playing as shooters and attackers playing as defenders, displaying their excellent level of skill and composure. The final score was 18-1 to Cowbridge.

Senior netball – The senior netball team consisting of year-11, 12 and 13 players, competed in the President's Cup tournament at Whitchurch High School on Monday, November 21.

Cowbridge played against Howells, St David's College and Plasnewydd in the pool rounds – three strong and experienced teams. Against Plasnewydd, Cowbridge displayed strength in attack, securing goals at each scoring opportunity and capitalising on turnovers.

However, the Plasnewydd team was strong and accurate, enabling them to forge ahead in the closing minutes. Cowbridge lost 7-5.

Against a mature St David's team, Cowbridge showed strength and depth in defence, with excellent interceptions coming from Bethan Sloan at GK, Molly Lamb at GD and Caitlin Allin at WD to keep Cowbridge in contention.

A change at half-time saw Liz Whitehouse move out of position to GA, alongside Mairi Boxall at GS, which added pace and flair to the game and Cowbridge took the lead 6-5.

A determined St David's team quickly equalised and the score remained 6-6 in the closing stages of the game.

Unfortunately, St David's had one more centre pass to take and secured the final goal seconds before the final whistle, taking the score to 7-6.

In the third game, Cowbridge faced Howells, who had convincingly beaten all other teams during the tournament. The experience of Lily Crane at C and Olivia Brooks at WA ensured the Cowbridge team remained composed against a confident team and the score was level at 4-4 at half-time.

In the second half, Howells played with true style, with many of their county players taking to the court to ensure they qualified for the finals.

They proved simply too strong and the game ended 8-6. Despite losing all three matches, the Cowbridge team played extremely well and put in very gritty performances, only narrowly missed out on each win. Well done girls!

Player of the tournament: Liz Whitehouse.

SKIING COWBRIDGE Comprehensive girls ski Team A and Team B, and Team A boys, travelled to Edinburgh for the British Schools Artificial Ski Championships.

The boys' team was Jamie and Nicky Griffiths, Harry Hopkins and Ben Thomas. Ben Thomas had an excellent day; both his first and second run produced great times of 36.69 and 36.00 finishing in 25th place overall.

Harry Hopkins also had two consistent runs, his first time was 38.47 and second was 38.21, finishing in 34th place overall.

Jamie Griffiths had a first run of 38.79 and second run of 39.66, giving Jamie an overall time of 78.45, placing him in 39th place.

Unfortunately, Nicky Griffiths fell on his first run and on the second run finished in 47 seconds. There were 100 competitors in the race. The team came 11th overall out of 25 teams.

In the girls race, Emily Hopkins, Amy Taylor, Sarah Williams and Hannah Taylor made up the A Team and Manon Thomas, Amy Oliver, Olivia Brown and Caitlin Jones made up the B Team.

Emily Hopkins had an exceptionally quick first run with 33.01, posting the second fastest time of the day. However, in her second run a gate was missing, impeding Emily's race and she had to stop and hike around another gate so she finished with 39.92. This gave Emily an overall time of 72.93, coming sixth.

Sarah Williams had a better first run than second, completing the race in 37.70 and 41.66 with an overall time of 79.36, coming 24th.

Amy Taylor had a fall in her first run and had to hike back up the course to complete the gates; in her first run she completed in 51.57 and the second was in 42.03, coming 51st overall.

Caitlin Jones had her first experience at the British Schools and performed really well with times of 46.94 and

54.37, coming 58th overall.

Olivia Brown was consistent with 56.09 and 55.58, coming 67th.

Hannah Taylor and Amy Oliver both had falls and had to hike back up the hill. Hannah completed the course in 124.76 and 94.40, coming 74th and Amy completed in 60.04 and 197.31 coming 75th.

Unfortunately, Manon Thomas was disqualified in her first run due to missing a gate; Manon made up for this with a good second run of 56.73. A total of 75 racers finished both runs. The girls A team finished ninth and B team 18th out of 23 teams.

FOOTBALL ON November 22, the year-8 football team played a very strong Fitzalan team, at home.

The game was the second round of the Cardiff and Vale Cup, and there was no room for error.

Cowbridge made the better start, and after a few unsettled minutes, were controlling the centre of the pitch and looked like the better team. The first goal came about from a cross/shot from David Bear. David struck the ball from around 30 yards out, and it looped over the goalkeeper for a Ronaldinho-like finish.

After this, Cowbridge kept on pressing, with David Bear again playing some lovely balls out to the wingers Sean Davies and Josh Peterson and over the defence to Aaron Griffiths and Jay Munn.

The second goal was a great strike from Sean Davies. With Jay and Aaron giving the defence no time to settle, the ball spilled to Sean, who hit it straight into the top right-hand corner.

Cowbridge looked in control until Fitzalan responded and turned a deflected shot into the goal. Cowbridge were not happy with conceding and Aaron restored the lead to two when he tapped the ball into the net with a typical striker's goal. At the end of the half, the scores finished 3-1.

The second half started, and the game was turned on its head. Cowbridge went from being in control, to being nervous on the ball, and could not maintain possession. Fitzalan looked like a totally different team, and so did Cowbridge.

Fitzalan were constantly on the attack, and had around 15 shots in the second half, scoring two unanswered goals, and the game was balanced on a knife edge. With both sets of players, coaches, teach-

ers and parents biting their nails, the game came to a close, and the scores were level.

This meant that in almost complete darkness, the game would be decided on penalties.

In the shootout, Cowbridge were flawless. Jay Munn, Duncan Ace, David Bear and Harrison Stevens stepped up and slotted away their penalties with ease. Charley Martin was then left to save the day and he did, saving two penalties, and Cowbridge were through.

Player of the match: Jay Munn.

BASKETBALL 5x60 Tournament KS3

– The KS3 team entered the tournament knowing they had a tough road ahead.

Following in the footsteps of last year's team (a championship winning squad) they had a lot to live up to.

Despite facing throughout the whole day opposing teams of bigger, tougher, older and more experienced players, the Cowbridge boys never let their heads down, even once. When faced with big deficits and seemingly overmatched in many areas, they stayed together as a team.

Sterling work was done by everyone. Callum Marlow and Josh Evans stood their ground against bigger opponents in the post and defended well. Ben Terry and Sean Davis manned the point and led the team.

Cai Evans, Tomos Evans-Williams, Moses Gee and Henry Jones all brought a lot of firepower to the wings. Year-9's David Humphreys and Ben Jones carried the scoring load for the team.

In its first two matches, the side faced Barry Comprehensive and then St Richard Gwyn. Both sides were full of year-9 players and wasted little time making sure the Cowbridge players knew how much smaller they were.

In both games, Cowbridge managed to stay composed and despite a frantic pace and physical play, and the final scores (20-6 loss to Barry Comp, 14-3 loss to St Richard Gwyn) didn't truly reflect the nature of the games.

The final match, against St Cyres, was a different case altogether. Having faced a day of tough opposition, the Cowbridge squad remade themselves as a defensive minded unit, holding St Cyres to only five points, with three of those coming from tactical fouls by Cowbridge.

David Humphreys and Ben Jones put up



ABOVE and BELOW: The school's pupils continue Cowbridge Comprehensive's sporting traditions with new medal hauls!



eight points between them, and Cowbridge built an early lead and then cemented it with some timely second half baskets.

With one victory under their belt, and a lot of invaluable experience gained, the Cowbridge KS3 squad ended the day in an upbeat mood.

KS4 – Coming off the back of a highly successful 2010-2011 campaign as a KS3 team, the Cowbridge KS4 team, made entirely of year-10 boys, was looking to start the year strong and set a tone going forward.

That was achieved with the team winning three of its four games, and only being beaten by the eventual tournament winners, St Richard Gwyn, in what was effectively the final.

The team started slowly in its first game against Barry.

Cowbridge's opponents built a small lead and the starting five, Alex Greaves, Sean Rowland, Matt Roberts, George Griffiths and Harry Stubbington, struggled to find a rhythm.

The team hung on and by half-time managed to tie the game. Declan Thomas was a big reason for that.

Coming off the bench with a lot of grit and determination, he brought a lot of little things to the floor and the team's play, doing all the small things that make an offence work.

Cowbridge slowly pulled ahead and outworked their opponents, ending the game with a solid and well earned 28-21 victory. Barry were a strong side, with a number of talented players but they could-

n't handle the team play Cowbridge brought to the court.

In game two, Cowbridge started the game far more in control, outworking their opponents St Cyres. An early lead was built behind the superb defensive effort of Sean Rowland, who effectively stopped the opponent's fast breaks with repeated steals.

Matt Roberts and George Griffiths did most of the scoring work, with Matt breaking down defenders on the perimeter and getting to the basket, and George scoring repeatedly on hustle plays, running out on fast breaks and cleaning up the boards.

The St Cyres squad stayed in it and came out strong in the second half. Their renewed tenacity was partly their undoing however, as over aggressive post defence meant that Cowbridge drew repeated shooting fouls, and found ways to score even when the shots weren't dropping.

Once again, Declan Thomas came off the bench to hold the team together, playing hard and strong to help hold off St Cyres in a 26-24 victory.

The next opponent were Stanwell, who were coming in well rested. The Cowbridge side had hit their stride now and, led by starting point guard Alex Greaves, were now playing to its strengths. The game was effectively won in the first quarter as Cowbridge poured in 20 unanswered points, clamping down hard on defence and repeatedly scoring on the break.

Stanwell were overwhelmed and remained almost scoreless for the entire first half, managing only one basket. Much of that was the result of Harry Stubbington being a deterring presence on the block, and repeatedly hitting the guards with passes that started fast breaks.

With their minds turning to the next game Cowbridge got a little overconfident, briefly letting Stanwell back into the game. The squad pulled it together in the final quarter and ended strongly, going on to win 32-12.

In the final game of the day, playing the other unbeaten side in the tournament, St Richard Gwyn.

Cowbridge finally met its match. Overcoming a slow start the boys rallied back to tie by the end of the first quarter and then took a brief lead early in the second.

At this point, the opposition turned up the pressure, playing some tough well organised defence stopping Cowbridge from executing. At the other end they kept finding open players for good shots, picking their moments and scoring.

The game began to get out of reach of Cowbridge, especially as Declan Thomas limped off with cramps, Alex Greaves struggled with foot problems and the team as a whole grew weary, having just five minutes break between this and prior game.

A late rally was short-lived and St Richard Gwyn won a well deserved 40-25 victory.

Reindeer parade draws thousands of people to Cowbridge with start of the festive season

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:

e-mail glynnevans01@fiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

IN the 12 year history of the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade no crowd has been as big as this year's turnout with estimates running at between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' images, there are few things in life that bring as much joy as the beginning of the Christmas season.



FESTIVE TIME FOR BARRY CHOIR



Barry Male Voice Choir.

FOLLOWING the choir's recent appearance at St David's Hall, Cardiff, as part of The British Heart Foundation's fundraising concert, Barry Male Voice Choir is now in the final stage of a busy Christmas period.

Having already sung at 2.30pm in All Saints Church, Barry, the choir will join the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band for its Christmas concert, which this year is in aid of the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth. The choir's final charity event will be held from 7pm on December 19 at Wetherspoon's Sir Samuel Romilly, in aid of CLIC, the Sir Malcolm Sargent's children's cancer

charity. After a well-earned Christmas break, practices will restart at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry on January 5 at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. Contact www.barry-malevoicechoir.co.uk or www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk; or telephone 01446 402398.

VALE MAYOR'S CAROL CONCERT

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor invites the public to start Christmas celebrations with a carol concert at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on December 8 at 7pm, with the Vale of Glamorgan Band, Barry Male Voice Choir, Gladstone Road Primary School Choir and the Llamau Choir.

Tickets are £5 from the Mayor's Office on 01446 709301. All proceeds to Llamau.

PENCOED RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

First team cruise to win

F O R T U N E favoured Pencoed in the opening moments, the visitors hitting the upright with a penalty chance.

Territorially Pencoed were on top in the first quarter into a stiff breeze, and opened their account with a try from back row forward Aaron Halse. Outside half Marc Davies added a difficult conversion.

Pencoed continued to attack and got further reward with front row forward Nicky Hawkins crossing and Davies added the conversion.

Morrison hit back with a lineout catch and drive to score in the corner. The visitors then missed a relatively easy

PENCOED 33 MORRISTON 5

penalty, and at the interval Pencoed led 14-5.

Pencoed struck early in the second half, centre Lloyd Ryland straightening a move, before setting up his wing Glen Hiscocks with a well timed pass for Hiscocks to race over wide out; Davies slotted a superb conversion in the now deteriorating conditions underfoot.

Pencoed were now playing with confidence, and scrum half Ben Read showed good skills in the difficult conditions for Halse to capitalise for his second try, which Davies converted for a 28-5 lead.

Replacement Jamie

Williams soon got into action with a fine tackle, and then showed his pace with a fifty metre counter, only for Hawkins to be held up over the line.

Pencoed wrapped up the match with Read crossing wide out for a final scoreline of 33-5, Nicky Hawkins getting the Coed-yr-Mwstwr man of the match award.

Due to the eagerly anticipated Wales v Australia international on Saturday, when incidentally Pencoed held a 'past & present players' evening on the eve of the match (December 2), Pencoed return to action with a friendly at Bridgend Sports on Saturday, December 10.

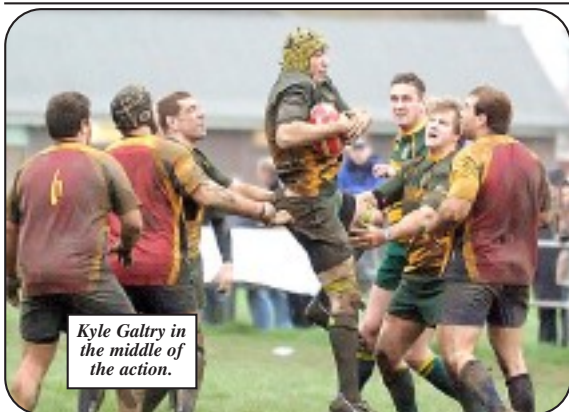
TR



Ben Read sets his backs in motion
PHOTOS by JULIE HANCOCK



Pencoed's Aaron Halse eyes the break.



Kyle Galtry in the middle of the action.

Porthcawl youth come out on top



Evan Williams off-loads.

Porthcawl youth welcomed Tonna to South Road in a friendly fixture on a blustery afternoon.

With a number of players absent due to Ospreys under-18s and other commitments, the young seaweeds were still able to put a good side on the field.

From the start it was evident that Porthcawl were the better side when the ball was spread across the backs, however the visitors strength was in their large pack which they used well throughout the game.

What materialised was a very good and competitive match that was well supported and appreciated by the home

PORTHCAWL YOUTH 29 TONNA YOUTH 14

Lloyd Rosser scores.



crowd.

Porthcawl scored five tries through Thomas Matthews, Evan Williams, James Legg, Lloyd Rosser Stanford and Jack Taylor; Huw Mitchell and Thomas Matthews were success-

ful with a conversion each.

Once again the young seaweeds fielded a side with all but one player being first year youth and once again they impressed all those watching.

PB

Pride despite a loss for the Athletic



Josh Davies with Stuart Morris

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48)

Two minutes later he repeated the feat from the Athletic 22 to put his side clear at 13-7. The Athletic with four changes in the pack introducing prop Dan Suter, hooker Stuart Nation, lock Paul Jones and flanker Stuart Edbrooke kept the pressure on, but were unable to break down an organised Tata Steel defence and deserved more from the game than the losing bonus point they secured.

Coach John Apsee stated that with performances like this and 6 of the remaining 9 games at home he can see a much improved second half of the season.

In some games this season the Athletic had beaten themselves with the wrong attitude, but this was the old determined Athletic with a never say die attitude.

There is now a league break until December 17 when another high flying side, Whitland, are the visitors. The Athletic will

be looking for a friendly on December 10 when they have a bye in the first round of the Swalec Cup.

The club would like to thank Mr Colin Shepherd of Assistmost for sponsoring the game.

AB

PHOENIX attacked from the outset in this development friendly match, centre Laura Robson showing good skill in passing out of the tackle to her wing Stephanie Niblett, who was brought down by the students defence.

Phoenix outside half Robyn Wilkins pulled off a fine cover tackle on the University left wing when a score threatened.

Home flanker Amy Stevens then showed good awareness, latching onto a ricocheted ball to continue the attack, before play swung back to the Phoenix 22, second row Hannah Brunskill bringing off a try saving tackle metres from her own line.

The University continued to attack and got their reward crashing over for a converted try at the posts to lead 0-7 at the end of the first twenty minute period, the match being played over four twenty minute periods to aid development.

Phoenix started the second period well with flanker Stevens to the fore with a big hit in midfield, before Robson seized on to a loose ball

PENCOED PHOENIX 29 CARDIFF UNIVERSITY 7

and raced in from 22 metres out, Wilkins converted.

Good driving play from second row Liz Creffield put Phoenix on the attack, unfortunately the final pass did not go to hand on the overlap.

Wilkins was again prominent in defence, halting the Students' pressure with two fine tackles in successive attacks, before clearing her lines with a lengthy touch finder, and the second period closed with the match evenly balanced.

Phoenix then took the lead with a fine 50 metre try from soccer convert Hannah Seward, who cut inside the last defender to score under the posts; Wilkins converted.

Robson then pulled off a fine cover tackle, halting a dangerous University attack.

Phoenix were now coming more and more into the match, their fitness holding up well in the now gluepot conditions, and a long pass from Wilkins gave Seward the opportunity to show her pace, and race in from twenty metres for the home side to lead 19-7 at the end of the third period.

Stevens then

increased the Phoenix lead, aggressively fending-off an attempted tackler thirty metres out, before breaking away for a superb score, taking the last ditch tackle before grounding.

Nerys Lloyd playing up front for the first time for Phoenix was having a good match, and got her just reward, Stevens dislodging the ball in the tackle for the supporting Lloyd to crash over for a final scoreline of 29-7.

Phoenix flanker Amy Stevens deservedly received the Phoenix Property Agents player of the match award.

Phoenix now have a mini break before continuing their league programme with a home fixture against Blaenau Gwent on Sunday, December 11, 2.30pm kick-off at the Recreation Ground.

Phoenix under-15 fledglings in their first ever competition had a fine tournament at Maesteg RFC, winning two games, with one draw in the round robin 10-a-side tournament, and also fielded a second ten to accommodate their growing numbers.

TR

Ath under-11s break unbeaten run

THE Ath under-11s played home to Carmarthen who had been unbeaten for the last two years.

The hosts got the game underway and Dan O'Sullivan scored straight after the kick off. Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0.

The visitors recovered well, putting some good moves together; some good hands set Dafydd Beech to break free and score a well taken try. Connor Fabian converted to make it 14-0.

More pressure from the Ath saw Dan O'Sullivan break the visitors' defence again to score, and Connor Fabian converted to give the Ath a 21-0 lead.

The second half saw the Ath score next with Sam Veasey picking up a loose ball to go over and score.

Connor Fabian converted making it 28-0.

Sam Veasey scored his second

of the game shortly after when he made a fantastic run to weave his way through the defence and score; Fabian converted to make it 35-0.

More great attacking play saw Sam Veasey score his third after some good passing set him free, and Jack Obbard converted to make it 40-0.

The final try of the match went to Dan O'Sullivan who crashed over the line just before the final whistle.

Connor Fabian converted to make the final score Bridgend Ath 48, Carmarthen 0.

Game two saw the Ath make several changes and the visitors who broke the deadlock with a converted try to give them a 7-0 half time lead. The visitors extended their lead in the second half after running the length of the field to score a converted try, making it 14-0.

The Ath continued to pressure the visitors and were rewarded with Dan O'Sullivan scoring.

He stepped up and converted his own try to reduce the score to 14-7 to the visitors.

Carmarthen replied to make it 21-7, but credit to the Ath who continued to attack and Brandyn Fookes forced his way over to score just before the end of the game. Dan O'Sullivan converted to make the final score Bridgend Ath 14 Carmarthen 21.

Team: Thomas Anthony, Jack Obbard, Gwilym John, Teo Fillis, Kasari Mehta, Ffion Revill, Megan Webb, Connor Fabian, Stion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Jack Mustoe, Louis King, Lance Burn, Brandyn Fookes, Jamie Marshall, Dafydd Beech, Josh Tidy, Thomas Reed, Taine Waite, Jack Jenkins, William Goodhall, Dan O'Sullivan, James Hermoille.

BR

Local kickboxers pass their black belt tests in style

RECENTLY, students from Welsh Kickboxing Union (WKU) earned first and second degree black belts following a gruelling two-day training and examination that lasted a total of 12 hours.

Students were expected to pass six categories which included fitness, technique, pad work, sparring, patterns and weapons, fitness and technique tests, including 12 two-minute rounds of skipping, followed by a programme of sit ups, press ups, squat jumps and such like.

The day ended with students breaking boards with elbows, punches and kicks and finally showing their understanding of Korean kickboxing terminology.

All students successfully passed the grading, and examiner Jeff Copp (7th degree black belt and president of WKU) said it was one of the best gradings he had overseen.

Bridgend Warriors is an established kickboxing club above Cody's in Bridgend, and instructors, Jeff Copp, Claire Vicker and Gemma James (both 2nd degree black belts and skilled fighters) teach classes to all ages and abilities.

Students have the opportunity to work



Training at Bridgend Warriors with Gemma James

their way through the belt system, and to take part in points, semi-contact and full contact fighting at local, national and worldwide level.

The club have an excellent competition record with both junior and adults regularly bringing back gold from all competitions.

Juniors Morgan Paget and Tia Lewis consistently return from competitions with gold medals.

In the recent 'Way of the Warrior' full contact and take down competition, Gemma James, Claire Vicker and Gethin Jones all succeeded in beating opposition who had travelled to Cardiff from all over Wales and England.

Gemma James has gained herself a national

reputation in the ring as the full contact fighter to beat, Claire Vicker fights points, semi contact and full contact, and again has proved herself the lady to beat.

For those who would like to learn kick boxing skills and get fit without contact fighting, students are encouraged in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

Gemma James teaches adults beginners and intermediates classes, as well as kickboxing circuits.

Claire Vicker teaches the children's classes and cardio kickboxing, so if you're looking to get fit, have some fun and learn something new come along, or visit www.kickboxingbridgend.co.uk.

DA



Students from Bridgend warriors and Scorpions black belt grading

Athletic seconds defy the weather for a fine win

THE first real wintry conditions of the year appeared for this league fixture.

A strong wind and swirling rain made watching uncomfortable and the playing of open rugby a virtual impossibility as the Athletic Seconds travelled to the top of the Neath Valley for this league encounter.

A number of recent regulars were missing such as Mike Hathaway with the first XV, and Ben Howe and Nick Hinton were also unavailable but on the plus side No 8 Sean Derrick was making a welcome return from injury.

Playing into the wind, the Athletic were soon on the attack, but play was scrappy as the slippery ball played havoc, and the passing was less than accurate.

Nevertheless after a period of sustained pressure the Athletic forced a five-metre scrum and Derrick took the opportunity to pick-up and power over for the game's opening score, which Tom Parry was unable to convert.

There appeared to be an air of complacency in the Bridgend Athletic ranks as miscommunication at the kick-off allowed Glynneath to mount an offensive.

The home team kept play tight and sent attackers deep into Athletic territory where they too secured a five-metre scrum.

A strong drive by the Athletic front row of Wayne Fooks, Huw Morris and captain Nathan Holman turned possession over for the Athletic; but as Parry drove play forward the possession was lost and Glynneath burrowed over for a well-deserved try that was converted to give them the lead.

At this point much of the play was a lottery and was confined between the 22-metre lines.

Eventually the visitors managed to get a foothold close to the Glynneath line and forced a penalty that Parry slotted over to give Athletic the half-

GLYNNEATH 2NDS
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2NDS

7
32

time lead by one point.

With slightly the better of the conditions in their favour, the Athletic opened the second half with a much more positive game-plan.

Good driving play by the forwards and inside backs drove Glynneath back to within 5 metres of their line.

Again, Derrick picked up and his well-timed pass put fly-half Nick Jones over in the corner for a try, followed by a magnificent touch-line conversion by Parry.

Craig Chalmers came on to the wing for Gareth Davies, while Rhys Evenden replaced Morris up front and play

continued in the same vein, with makeshift flanker Lee Murphy putting in an outstanding performance and Harry Davies and Morgan Thomas supporting his efforts stoutly, while Callum McLeod roamed the field, linking and driving the play forward.

Young scrum-half Owain Evans was growing in confidence and soon spun quick ball wide. Centres Parry and Jonnie Mustoe transferred the ball quickly to powerful wing Rod Davies, who smashed through the full-back and strode away from the covering defence for a good try.

Minutes later the Athletic were again camped on the home line. A devastating forward shove resulted in a push-over try for Derrick to claim his second of the day – and the one that ensured a bonus point for the Athletic.

Morgan Davies replaced Derrick and his introduction meant there was no let up of the pressure.

Andrew Tyler entered the fray to replace Jones and Sean Ellis made his debut for the last 10 minutes, giving Murphy a well-earned rest.

With only seconds remaining, the ball reached Tyler on the

right wing. He outflanked the first line of defence before sliding a kick through.

Some nifty footballing skills wrong footed the full-back and he chased through to claim a great score, which Parry converted.

Another good win puts the Athletic right at the top of the league but with some tough fixtures on the horizon.

Great news for the second team was that second-row Harry Griffiths has been named Bridgend Athletic senior player of the month.

A well deserved accolade following some dynamic performances in the last few games by this hard-working and enthusiastic player.

MD

Pencoed under-11s show plenty of fight

WITH nine players out of the squad, Pencoed under-11s just got a side together to meet local rivals Cowbridge.

Pencoed narrowly lost their unbeaten record,

with the boys fighting to the final whistle.

During the first 10 minutes, the teams seemed evenly matched, but Cowbridge showed their class and with quick ball they managed to put four tries on the score sheet with no reply.

After the half time team talk, the boys came out fighting scoring a quick try from the kick-off.

Cowbridge then lost their form, were penalised for poor tackling technique and, after a series of tap penalties, Pencoed scored again.

The Pencoed team did not let their heads drop and continued to play all the rugby, resulting in another two tries.

Cowbridge dug deep though and scored again. However, after a series of errors again from Cowbridge it looked as if the Pencoed boys were going to come back with a dramatic draw but they could not get the ball to ground.

Well done lads, we are all very proud of you. **Final score Pencoed 28 Cowbridge 35.**

Cowbridge then wanted to play another game to give their large squad a run out, and both sides fielded a team of 10; those plucky boys kept their heads up and managed to snatch a convincing win with a final score Pencoed 42- Cowbridge 28.

CB

Pencoed under-15s in control

PENCOED under-15s welcomed South Gower for their second Ospreys Cup game.

South Gower had a big pack, but with good defence and attack from Pencoed, Rhys Brownell was able to score the first try of the day, which was converted by Alex King.

Ellis Griffiths scored two more tries which ended the first half 17-0 to Pencoed.

The Pencoed pack battled hard, and had some good runs, which allowed Liam Bowen to score a try.

With good tackling from Pencoed, the home

pack was too much for the South Gower team and Jason Clatworthy was able to score the last try of the day, which was successfully converted by Alex King.

The final score was 29-0 to Pencoed.

Squad: Scott Ewing, Jac Briggs, James Merchant, Josh Maunder, Morgan Jefferies, Lewis Brennan, Daniel Maiden, Rhys Brownell, Jason Clatworthy, Alex King, Ellis Griffiths, Lloyd Webb, Liam Bowen, Patrick Canham, Jordan Fox, Jamie Dyer, Aled Bargery, Cole Lewis, Kristen Morgan and Owain Clarke.

JM

THE MULES GRIND OUT A SOLID WET WEATHER WIN

KENFIG HILL Firsts played Kidwelly in atrocious conditions at Kidwelly, with Kenfig playing into a howling wind which drove icy cold rain into their faces for the first half.

The Mules adapted their play to suit the conditions and played a tight eight-man game which brought them close to scoring on several occasions.

However, Kidwelly broke the deadlock with a penalty just before half time by outside half Leighton Walters.

With the wind at their backs, Kenfig Hill played a slightly more expansive game in the second half and were rewarded with a try by scrum half Tom Briggs, who took the ball from a scrum on Kidwelly's 22 and danced over the line, outside-half Rhodri Clark converting.

The conditions got worse and Kenfig kept the pressure on and Clark added three more penalties.

Kidwelly tried a few passing moves but were thwarted by some top-rate tackling, particularly by Shaun Burnell, the Kenfig Hill right winger



Photographs by PETER GILLING

Centre Chris Tossell shows the way forward with props Gavin Jenkins and Gareth Edwards lending support.

and centres Chris Tossell and Nicky Morgan.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 16 Kidwelly 3.

For Kenfig Hill, No 8 Steve Gillard had an outstanding game, with the rest of the pack dominating a Kidwelly side noted for their scrummaging ability.

We were all impressed by ace busketeer 'Sat Nav' Evans who managed to find his way to the ground without having to stop and ask for directions and, like a homing pigeon, also managed to find his way back to Kenfig Hill.

Kenfig Hill Seconds v Bryn – This game, like the Firsts, was played in awful conditions on the Bryn pitch but Kenfig



Tom Briggs dives over the line to score.

Hill stuck to the task and were rewarded with a 14-0 victory.

Veteran centre Alex Pearce scored a try, as did Derwyn Rees who is returning from injury.

Nicky Giles, who played his first game after a lengthy lay off fol-

lowing knee surgery, put over two conversions.

Richard Underhill had a good game for Kenfig Hill playing No 8, and substitute Michael Guy shone when he came on, while Jamie Uren played well at prop.

GO'S



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GEM Family Notices

Birthday Notices

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CONGRATULATIONS

DANNY & KATHRYN WILLICOMBE

on the Birth of their Beautiful Daughter EMBER

on 26 November 2011
Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Kim & Nan xxx

Family Notices

JONES

Arthur James

Sue would like to thank all her loving family and friends for the support given to her during her sad loss. Thanks also to everyone who made a donation in lieu of flowers to Help for Heroes.

Special thanks to Reverend Melanie Prince for her warm, comforting and sincere service, as well as to A G Adams & Son, Funeral Directors for all their help and guidance.

HOOKINS

John David

Suddenly at Wycombe General Hospital on Friday 25th November, aged 68 years. Much loved husband of Nicci, dearly loved father to Ceri and Sian and adored grandfather to Ella, Caden, Caitlin and Maria.

Funeral Service Thursday 8th December 2011 at 2.00 p.m. in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Kidney Cancer U.K. c/o W.A. Brown, Funeral Directors, College St, Llantwit Major, tel. 01446 792489.

Patricia Trudgian

December 2, 2009

'LOVED AND MISSED FOREVER'

Loving husband John, Jeremy & Denise, Jonathan & Gail, Jenny & Mark, all your grandchildren and dear sister of Albert and Tony.

Happy 50th Birthday Phil Vincent
on December 4, 2011
Have a great day!
With all my love, Sue. XXX

Happy 50th Birthday COLLETTE
for the 6th December
All my Love,
Gareth x x x

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x x x

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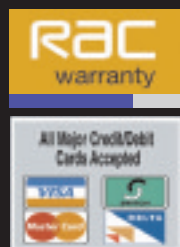
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2.00	Face Painting	Rugby Club
2.00	Stage Performances	Precinct
2.00	Santa's Grotto	Point Break
2.00	Craft Market	Point Break
2.00	Children's Fair	Precinct
2.00	Lantern Parade	Precinct
2.00	Presentations etc	Precinct
2.00	Lights Switch On	Precinct
Teas and coffees will be available in the precinct		
Stage Performances Timetable		
2.00	Music	
3.30	Stage door 1	
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Impressive scores for David and Calcaterra at golf society meeting



LEFT: Successful golfers Robert Calcaterra and Martyn David with sponsor Andrew Thomas, and David Williams.

THE monthly meeting of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff which attracted 42 entries all competing for the many quality prizes supplied by the day's sponsors Herbert R Thomas Ltd of Cowbridge.

The winner in the members' section with a very impressive 40 stableford points was Martyn David followed by society president Geraint Davies who finished runner up with 37 points. Neil McLean with 36 points finished third and Godfrey Lewis fourth with 34 points.

In the guest section, former 18-handicap golfer (but now 14) Robert Calcaterra took the honours when scoring 40 points, seven points clear of runner up James Hayes who scored 33 points.

Sponsors' representative Gavin Rees finished third with 31 points while his work colleague James Mordecai mixed business with pleasure by carrying out a survey of most of the course during his round!

Nearest the pin on the

par three holes were Keith Davies, Barrie Melhuish, Martyn David and Robert Calcaterra.

The 'James Hog Roast' longest drive sponsor Mr Keith James was unable to be present due to being under house arrest (and a touch of gout) but would have been impressed with the length of Neil McLean's drive on the 18th hole to collect the longest drive prize.

David Williams returned to winning ways when correctly guessing 36 balls would fail to return home to collect the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whiskey.

The Society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15 at RAF St Athan Golf Club, when members will be competing for the RAF St Athan Shield.

T McC

Bees pushed

BARRY under-9s entertained Rhydyfelin at the Reservoir Fields on a bright and warm Sunday morning.

The Bees were hard pressed and conceded two tries. This spurred the Bees on and the game turned in Barry's favour, Rhys Lloyd scoring two quick tries to put the Bees back into the game at the break.

The Bees were now in full flow and two well worked tries came from Seb Fahiya and James Chapman.

Rhydyfelin responded to make it 4-3, but the Barry forwards were dominant and Jacob Pereira burst through to make it 5-3.

Rhydyfelin, were far from beaten and scored a couple of good tries but a

try saving tackle from Stephen Williams denied them another.

After a series of surging runs from the Barry forwards, Cole Saunders surged down the wing for the winning score with the last play of the game.

Rhydyfelin provided a much tougher test for the Bees, but again they came through to gain a deserved win. This was another strong squad performance with everyone contributing positively.

Team: Jacob Pereira, Jake Lang, Isaac McBride, Charlie Bale, Ethan Watkins, James Latham, Myles Latham, Rhys Lloyd, Stephen Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, James Chapman, Cole Saunders.

JM

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The Cowbridge under-11s work hard for win

COWBRIDGE under-11s returned to winning ways with a hard fought 35-28 away victory to close rivals Pencoed.

Cowbridge broke the deadlock with a fantastic try by Jack Dixon and this first try seemed to galvanise the Cowbridge team into some great running rugby.

The boys' second try came after the forwards produced some good clean ball for Ioan to feed Evan who, with a quick pass, put Ruben who was lurking in the backs into space. Ruben picked up some speed and managed to outpace the Pencoed defence to score in the corner.

The next try from Cowbridge was the try of the game.

Straight from the kick off, following Ruben's try, the Cowbridge pack regained the ball and the backs moved the ball along the line seamlessly.

The forwards recycled the ball and once again great hands across the back line put Gabriel Davies in at the corner to

score his first try of the season.

The final score of the first half came again straight from Ioan's kick off, and this time a mix up in the Pencoed defence allowed Evan to touch down without a Pencoed hand touching the ball.

The second half was a very different affair with the Pencoed team scoring four tries to one. It was however, a very important one, with the winning margin only being seven points.

Throughout the second half the Cowbridge team defended bravely against an avalanche of tap penalties, with Jack Dixon having his best game of the season so far.

With the second half penalty count against Cowbridge beginning to get a little embarrassing, the boys produced a winning try out of the little possession that came their way. It was a great team effort with Harry Edwards gaining the glory, and Ioan converted all seven tries.

GJ



Summer Pony Club championships.

THREE of Llangeinor Pony Club members have raised £157 for the Animal Health Trust to aid research into equine diseases.

After taking part in the Pony Club Championships in Derby in August, Philippa Roe, Beth Granville and Jessica Allen pledged to raise £100 for the Animal Health Trust to help save ponies' lives by contributing towards the building of a new

laboratory at the AHT headquarters in Warwickshire.

If the £100,000 target is reached, the Animal Health Trust will name a laboratory after The Pony Club in honour of all the hard work and support from Pony Clubs throughout the UK.

The girls surpassed the £100 pledge they made with a sponsored tack cleaning session and baking cakes to sell to other Pony Club members, resulting in a cheque for

Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club tack cleaning fundraisers

£157 being sent to the Animal Health Trust. District Commissioner Mrs Marion Elliott said: "We are so happy to be able to send off the cheque from the girls who have arranged all the fundraising themselves. It is so gratifying to know our members have contributed to this most worthy cause and we sincerely hope to target is reached to benefit all horse and pony owners in the future."

ME

Llantwit Major Junior Football round-up

LAST Saturday saw the League Cup quarter-finals played in the Vale of Glamorgan League.

Llantwit Major had four out of their five teams still in the cup, and two of these sides won a place in the semis on Saturday.

The under-12 A entertained Barry Celts A and easily beat them 8-0 with a very good team performance.

Despite losing a couple of their squad to illness, the players who took over played exceptionally well.

Skipper Bevan Howell led the team and gave a very good display. Llantwit took an early lead and never looked back, with goals from Luke Beattie who

notched a hat trick, Morgan Gore (2), Lewis Brown (2) and Dan Williams.

Special mention to stand-in goalie, Laurence Bowman, who didn't put a foot wrong throughout the game.

The under-13 A gave a superb display to recover from 2-1 down midway through the second half to beat Cadoxton Imps B 4-2 and win a place in the semi-final.

Make no mistake about it, Cadoxton Imps B are a very good side and with respect, better than their A side.

It took a great effort and everyone in the Llantwit side had to be on top form to win this

one.

Llantwit took a first half lead, but after the interval Cadoxton, with a wind advantage, equalised and within minutes were in front through Lucas Sylvester.

However, the Major took up the challenge to score three times in the final 12 minutes to clinch victory.

Cai Evans (2), Harrison Stevens and Rhys Beynon were Llantwit's marksmen in a great game of football.

Dinas Powys A entertained the under-13 B side and what a game it was, with both teams committed to attack.

At full time, the score was level at 4-4. However, Dinas stepped up the pace in extra time and came out on top 7-4.

Dan Vickers was on top form and scored a hat trick with Alex Parry scoring the fourth for the Major, but it was not enough to take them through.

It was another defeat for the under-15 side in the other quarter-final against Cogan Coronation B.

The side gave a good first half display against a side who had previously beaten Llantwit in the league.

It was goalless at the interval and hopes were high after the break but with the wind at their backs, Cogan went in

front and once in the lead, they never looked back to run away with a 6-0 win.

The under-14 and under-16 cup competition this season will be played on a group basis and will kick off in March.

This week, Llantwit Major juniors had good news when the Vale League chose the under-14 side to represent the league in the SWFA Tesco Cup and the under-16 team were selected to play in the SWFA Junior Cup - both competitions kick off at the end of January.

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Based on official VCA figures for New Micra 1.2 DIG-S Acentia/Tekna: 15.2 mpg, 41 litres per tank. Fuel consumption figures for Nissan Micra DIG-S Range: URBAN 47.9-56.5mpg (5.9-5.0L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 62.8-78.5mpg (4.5-3.6L/100km), COMBINED 56.5-68.9mpg (5.0-4.1L/100km) CO₂ emissions 115-95g/km.

WINNERS COLLECT THEIR SILVERWARE AT BRYNHILL

THE annual presentation night was held at Brynhill Golf Club on Saturday, November 12 with a full house enjoying the proceedings.

Club captain Steve Jones thoroughly enjoyed his evening, feeling like a film star with the amount of photos that were taken of him, though he was well assisted by his vice-captain Glenn Taylor.

More than 80 winners and runners-up from the men's section collected their silverware, though unfortunately club champion Scott Bowman could not collect either the Championship Trophy nor his Morgan Williams Cup – yet another successful year for Scottie.

Many of the members also had a good year with many having their picture taken nearly as often as Steve, among them Ronnie Holland, Wayne Adams, Darryl Hewitson, Lee Price, Simmon Pringle, Andrew Redmond and Richard Webb.

Andrew Redmond took the George Williams Cup but also came runner-up in two other competitions.

Simmon Pringle took both the Dai Rees Cup and the Kenyon Davies Cup with his partner Darryl Hewitson, as well as also receiving two runners-up prizes, and former club champion Wayne won the Bristol Cup with his partner David Hayman as well as the Ken Murphy Gross Cup.

Pictured last but certainly not least is Jon Burrows, winner of the Victor Ludorum Cup for the best and most consistent golfer in all club competitions held over the year.

The rain has set in now but most members are already practicing their swings and working on their games with club pro Duncan Prior, in readiness for next season – enjoying too the newly installed winter tees – a revelation using a new blend of astro turf and sand!



Alan Sweeny being presented with The Presidents Cup by club president Peter Hayman.



Chris Phillips presenting Mike Bird with the 'Don The Fox' trophy – named in honour of Chris' father



Jon Burrows, the Victor Ludorum winner, with club captain Steve Jones.



Wayne Adams with the Ken Murphy Cup.



Jeff Wilcox with the captain.



Matthew looks to excel this weekend

MANY congratulations to Barry Comprehensive year-11 pupil Mathew Collins.

Twelve months ago – on the first weekend in December – the then year-10 pupil was looking forward to a first ever Welsh Schools international appearance, in the under-16 age group at the SIAB Schools' Indoor Combined Events at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. Sadly, because of the bad weather in late November and December 2010, that event was postponed and re-scheduled for the first Saturday in February 2011.

As a result, Mathew made his international debut over 800 metres for the Dragons squad at the under-16 Celtic Schools' indoor international at the National Indoor Athletics Centre, Cyncoed, on the last

weekend in January of this year.

On the following weekend, he travelled to Glasgow for the re-scheduled SIAB Indoor Combined Events, finishing eighth (2,756 points) and helping his under-16 (years 9 and 10) squad claim the team gold ahead of England and Ireland.

In the summer, after a hugely encouraging improvement over 400 metres, finishing second at the Aviva Welsh Schools' National track and field championships, he was selected to compete at the Aviva SIAB Schools' under-17 international at Cardiff International Sports Stadium. He finished fifth in the 400 metres and helped that 4 x 400 metres squad take the silver medals.

Those quality performances over one lap also earned him a spot in the Welsh Schools 4 x



Matthew Collins

400 metres squad at the Sainsbury's UK School Games in Sheffield in early September.

At that event, he had the honour of running the last leg, bringing the team home to a hugely pleasing first place.

This Saturday, December 3, as a result of excellent performances at the Welsh Schools outdoor combined events championships at Newport in June, and the equivalent invitation indoor events at NIAC in early November, he has been selected to make his debut in the older under-18 (years 11 and 12) section.

It is a huge step up, but Mathew has worked very hard, and broke the 3,000 points barrier at NIAC on his last outing.

He knows that he can improve in a number of the five events in which he has to compete – 60 metres hurdles, shot, 200 metres, long jump

and 800 metres.

If he does compete next Saturday, it will mean an undreamed of fifth Welsh Schools appearance in a calendar year – could that achievement be made even sweeter by another team medal?

We wish Mathew well, and hope that he will follow in the footsteps of another Barry Comprehensive pupil, Curtis Mathews, and go on to achieve international honours in the decathlon for the Aviva Great Britain and Northern Ireland team.

Also included in the team at Glasgow next Saturday are Cowbridge pupils George Griffiths (year-10) and Tom Trotman (year-9), who make their Welsh Schools' international debut, in the under-16 section.



John Giles and immediate past-captain John Kirkpatrick, winners of both the Junior Gold Cup and the Champagne Breakfast.



Simmon Pringle.



Andrew Redmond.

Bleu's hopes

LLANCAFFAN'S Evan Williams is hoping to become the first Welsh-based trainer to win the Coral Welsh National since Cowbridge's Denzil Jenkins won in 1965 with eight-year-old *Norther*, who was ridden by the then top jockey Terry Biddlecombe.

Norther, a former Welsh point-to-pointer, went on to finish seventh in the following year's Aintree Grand National.

The horse that Evan is resting his hopes on is nine-year-old *Cappa Bleu* who, after a 20-month absence, won a three-mile handicap chase at Haydock last week. *Cappa Bleu* won the 2009 Christie's Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham.

Incidentally, *Norther* used to be ridden in some of his races by Evan's father, Rhys Williams, and I recall them winning

a point-to-point at Lower Machen when the course was used for the first time in the 1960s.

During the last war, *Norther's* trainer Sqdn Ldr Denzil Jenkins DFC, had commanded a squadron of fighter pilots and he had 192 flying operations to his credit.

If anyone has any further information on him, I would be pleased to hear, as he appears to be one of Cowbridge's forgotten heroes.

At Newbury last Thursday, Evan's French-bred *Di Kaprio*, racing for the first time in 250 days, landed the novice handicap hurdle, coming home two-and-a-half lengths clear of *Magic Marmalade*.

Di Kaprio, a 11-1 chance, was ridden by Paul Moloney.

You can email your news and views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920736438.

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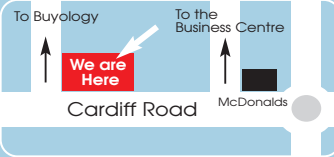
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04 54 TOYOTA RAV-4 2.0 XT3 Auto 3-Dr. In grey/green with grey interior, 4x4, air con, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 54,000 miles **£6,995**



06 56 MINI Cooper S 1.6 (175bhp) 3-dr hatchback. In chili red with black cloth/red leather ray combination upholstery, chrome line exterior, rear spoiler, radio/cd, panoramic roof, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, only 47,450 miles **£9,495**



04 04 LANDROVER Discovery 2.5TD Pursuit Auto. In black with dark interior, air con, radio/CD, service history, 7 seats, privacy glass, tow ball, only 95,430 miles **£7,995**



03 03 MG TF 1.8 Convertible. In light blue metallic blue with blue leather interior, electric windows, radio/CD, PAS, only 40,995 miles **£3,495**



05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, 52,000 miles **£8,995**



04 04 PEUGEOT 206s 1.6 Auto 2-Dr Coupe Convertible. In light metallic blue with black leather interior, air con, traction control, p/steering, electric roof, only 30,720 miles **£3,995**



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- 53 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 Vtec SE Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, 46,400 miles **£3,995**
- 03 03 MG TF 1.8 Convertible. In light blue metallic blue with blue leather interior, electric windows, radio/CD, PAS, only 40,995 miles **£3,495**
- 53 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£3,495**

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- 56 56 HONDA Civic i-VTEC Executive in bluish silver with black suede interior, sat nav, cruise control, traction control, alloy wheels, radio/CD, only 33,280 miles **£8,995**
- 58 58 TOYOTA Auris 1.3 VVTi TR 3-dr Hatchback. In basin blue with dark interior, climate control, anti-lock brakes, power steering, alloy wheels, only 26,000 miles **£8,495**
- 58 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRI 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpaca cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,890 miles **£7,995**
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- 10 10 RENAULT Grand Scenic Estate 2.0 TCE 100 Dynamique 5-dr MPV. In blue with charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, ISOFIX, radio/cd, under manufacturer's warranty only 28,000 miles **£6,995**
- 08 08 SKODA Roomster 2.1 4 5-Dr. In metallic light blue with dark interior, air con, radio/CD, immobiliser, FSH, only 9,780 miles **£6,495**
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- 55 55 CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX 5-dr MPV. In black with grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, radio/cd, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, only 39,240 miles **£3,495**

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- 58 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Sxi. In metallic grey with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fogs, immobiliser, radio/cd only 42,200 miles **£6,995**
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- 09 09 FORD Fiesta Van 1.4 TDCi in white with grey interior, radio/cd, pas, immobiliser, only 23,850 miles **£5,995**
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- 10 10 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr hatchback. In polar silver blue interior, air con, clocking, immobiliser, 1 owner, under manufacturer's warranty, only 18,890 miles **£4,995**
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by TIM SAUNDERS

THAT'S my opinion of the Peugeot 5008, which has hints of the distinctive GMC truck driven by a certain B A Baracus in the cult US action series.

The Pug is boxy at the rear and the design follows a similar path to the GMC van although the 5008 is closer to the ground, has a lower more slanted windscreen and there isn't that big grille either, making it more aerodynamic.

This is the French manufacturer's "first own official MPV (Multi-Purpose Vehicle)", according to Peugeot's Craig Morrow.

Bearing in mind the size of a people carrier, the 5008 is a competent performer, handling and cornering well. Plus there's no wallowing at high speed.

In common with all the latest Peugeots build quality is impressive although it lacks a sliding door for Hannibal and his crew to jump from although there are a host of extras for them



to enjoy during a mission.

These include: air-con and electric windows, panoramic glass roof, video screens in the rear headrests, folding tables and a fold-flat third row of seats.

Plus there's a clever mirror above the rear view mirror for checking on Murdock or Face in the back – particularly useful for monitoring baby daughter Harriett.

My only criticism is that there are too many gadgets on the dashboard including a switch for measuring the distance of vehicles ahead.

On start up a pop-up sat nav and a head up display with mph reading lift from the dash, which can distract the driver.

Well-designed leather seats provide a very comfortable and supportive driving position while the armrests at the

side of the front seats are a useful addition.

Last week, I tested an Alfa Mito and its seats resulted in my already temperamental back suffering additional twinges.

With regards fuel economy 5008 HDi drivers enjoy 55mpg, helped by a responsive six-speed manual gearbox and cruise control, which can be used at under 30mph.

When parked the 5008's wing mirrors electronically fold, which is particularly worthwhile when parking on a roadside, preventing them from being knocked by other vehicles.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Although Peugeot has a long tradition of seven-seat cars, the 5008 is the first model it has offered as a direct alternative to cars like the Vauxhall Zafira.

Compact people carriers have become far more popular in the last couple of decades, particularly those flexible enough to carry more than five, but whose extra seats are unobtrusive.

The Peugeot 5008 rivals cars like the Citroën C4 Grand Picasso and Volkswagen Touran for flexibility, but is more like the Ford S-MAX and Mazda5 in terms of driver appeal."

It just needs to be painted black and have a red stripe down the side and I am sure the A-Team would be delighted, particularly with the improved economy over their GMC truck.

Model tested: 5008 Allure Exclusive HDi; new price range: £20,695-£23,095; used price range: £9,502-£17,176.

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57 07 FORD KA Zetec 1297cc 3-dr Hatchback. In black, 2 keys, radio/CD, power steering, e/windows, FSH, low miles 30k ... £3,495

54 04 FORD Focus 1796cc Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In blue, radio/cd, a/c, remote central locking, fsh, low miles ... £2,995

02 02 FORD Focus ST 170, 1988cc 3-dr hatch-

back. In black, 6 speed manual, traction control, a/c, s/h, radio/cd ... £1,995

52 02 SKODA Octavia RS 1781cc. Metallic silver, half black leather sports seats, reverse sensors, traction control, FSH, remote central locking, radio/cd, 2 keys, a/c ... £1,995

02 02 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr. In silver, pas, e/w, a/c, full service history, new MoT on purchase, 89k, ... £1,895

03 03 RENAULT Megane Scenic 1390cc MPV. In blue, air con, E/W, E/M, radio/cassette, 1/2 leather seats, 79k ... £1,695

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T 99 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy Diesel. MoT until September 2012 ... £995



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01 VOLVO V70 Automatic Estate. 2001 model with 7 seats, FSH, A/C, CD, E/W, remote locking, comes with new MOT, taxed until May 2012 ... £2,195



06 FORD Transit 2-Litre Diesel. MoT July 2012, full service history ... £5,295



03 DAEWOO Kalos 1.4. 5-dr, alloys, c/s, p/w, a/c, service history, MoT Oct 12, Tax April 12, mileage 69k ... £1,895

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06 06 MERCEDES B180 CDI 2.0 SE Tip. 5-dr, telluar silver automatic, 75,499 miles £7,995
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57 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 CDTi 3-dr. In met. grey, 59,000 miles, 1 owner diesel at £5,495
56 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec Climate 5-dr in silver, 43,000 miles, 1 owner, only £30 road tax £5,295
07 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 16v Sport. 3-dr, met blue, 38,284 miles £4,995
07 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v Energy. 5-dr, silver, 52,318 miles £4,695
07 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 VVT Life. 5-dr, tonic blue, automatic, 56,017 miles £4,995
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 16v Active. 5-dr, silver, 45,092 miles £4,995
07 56 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v VTX. 5-dr, MPV, pearl met red, 47,343 miles £4,795
06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 130 LX. 5-dr in silver, 61,000 mile diesel £4,695
06 06 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate. 3-dr, colorado red, 52,406 miles £3,995
06 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate. 3-dr, in met grey, alloys, 65,000 miles £4,695
06 06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi+. 3-dr, sea mist, 46,022 miles £3,995
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GEM sport

Young Welsh wizards can start to shed their 'heroic losers' label against Oz...

APRIL 12, 1969...a truly momentous date in Welsh rugby history – when a powerful England team was crushed 30-9 at the National Stadium, Cardiff – with wing Maurice Richards running in three tries and Barry John adding another.

Momentous, because it heralded a glittering decade of unparalleled success for a group of precociously-gifted, stylish young Welsh players – Barry, JPR (winning his first full cap) Gerald, Gareth and Mervie *et al* – with whom, 40 years on, the entire rugby world is still on first name terms.

With a record of three Grand Slams (only the ever-stubborn Irish thwarted a fourth title) and a Triple Crown, their achievements are the stuff of legend – universally hailed as a second Welsh Golden Age.

Over the years since that exceptional group hung up their boots, there have been many 'false dawns' – with heady euphoria all too often giving way to bleak despair for supporters fervently hoping for a new generation of '70s-style stars to suddenly emerge and restore Wales as a force to be reckoned with in world rugby.

Sadly, those hopes invariably foundered on successive Welsh teams' seeming inability to maintain the essential requirement for any lasting success at this level – consistency. Even two Grand Slams in 2005 and 2008

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

failed to convince sceptics that the breakthrough had been made and that these were anything more than sporadic bursts of light in the prevailing gloom – an impression confirmed by Wales' poor showing in last year's Six Nations.

Maybe, just maybe, though, there are now signs that the long wait truly could be over, and that the current breed of exciting young warriors in red represent the best chance yet of this core failing being finally put to rest.

It began with two convincing wins against England and Argentina in the World Cup warm-up matches in Cardiff, following on an impressive showing at Twickenham. It continued in New Zealand with a string of highly-acclaimed World Cup performances, including wins over Samoa, Fiji, Namibia and Ireland, leading to a semi-final against France, which many (including the French themselves) thought Wales should not have narrowly lost (8-9) even though reduced to 14 men.

Couple that with another one-point loss (16-17) to the defending World Cup champions South Africa and a three-point loss (18-21) to Australia in the third place play-off, and there are genuine grounds for believing that Wales, under Kiwi head coach, Warren Gatland, may well have turned an important psychological

corner.

The flip side, of course, as the frustrated Welsh camp readily admitted, was that despite eye-catching performances and agonisingly narrow defeats, in the final analysis, they had not actually won anything...

At the end of the day, they had failed to ruthlessly ram home their advantage, let opponents off the hook, were unable to wrest victory from tight situations, and again failed to claim the scalps of southern hemisphere giants when they had golden opportunities to do so.

As All Blacks' World Cup winning head coach (and former Welsh coach) Graham Henry, pointed out, Wales must become far more clinical and develop a ruthless edge if they hope to shed their 'heroic losers' image.

This Saturday, they have an early chance to start proving a point – and at the same time avenge their defeat in the RWC third place play-off, when the Australians arrive at the Millennium Stadium hot foot from their ruthless 60-11 dismantling of the Barbarians' scratch side at Twickenham.

Having managed to keep his coaching team intact around him, Gatland is already starting to focus on the next World Cup in four years' time (hence his own ruthlessness in discarding veteran Stephen Jones and warning any squad

players outside Wales that they are putting their international future on the line).

Thus, for all the reasons above, and despite gaps in the ranks through injury or unavailability, there is no way that he will be treating the match on Saturday as anything less than a full-on international clash – another chance to iron out the irritating errors and flaws that frustrate his fast-developing young team's full flowering on the world scene.

Capturing a major Tri-Nations scalp in Cardiff would not only do wonders for morale, as a post-script to the World Cup, but lay down a marker in the more important long-term struggle for consistency.

In this respect, the date December 3, 2011, may yet come to take on a significance on a par with April 12, 1969 – and the occasion also marks the international swansong of wing wizard Shane Williams, who would certainly not have been out of place in that '70s team of super stars.

WALES TEAM v Australia

Leigh Halfpenny; George North, Scott Williams, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Rhys Priestland, Lloyd Williams; Gethin Jenkins, Huw Bennett, Scott Andrews, Bradley Davies, Ian Evans, Dan Lydiate, Sam Warburton (captain), Toby Faletau. Replacements: Matthew Rees, Ryan Bevington, Ryan Jones, Justin Tipiric, Tavis Knoyle, Dan Biggar, Alex Cuthbert.

Athletic restore pride

IN September, the Athletic lost 13-12 at Tata Steel.

Since then the Port Talbot side have been riding high and are in second place in the league, while the Athletic have not enjoyed any consistency and are at the wrong end of the table.

The Athletic rose to the occasion of a local derby with all 19 players used putting their bodies on the line in restoring pride once again in wearing the Athletic jersey; however, it was not quite enough on the day and they had to be satisfied with a losing bonus point, going down by 13-7.

The Athletic started with the advantage of a strong wind blowing towards the town end. However their lightweight pack was finding

it difficult to secure possession against a very big Tata Steel pack and back division.

The Steelmen were playing a very tight game with the ball rarely passing the inside centre. However, after 10 minutes of Steel pressure Athletic centre James Olds charged down an attempted chip ahead inside his own 22.

He fly hacked the ball for 70 metres outpacing the chasing defence and diving over in the corner for the opening try.

Scrum half Tom Davies put over an excellent conversion from the touchline to put the Athletic 7-0 ahead.

Against a much larger side, the Athletic tight play was holding its own. The front row of Matthew Norman, Simon Mustoe and Rod Apsee scrummaged well, locks Kyle Galtry

and Morgan Evans, making his first start, held their own in the line out. Flankers Dan Apsee and Matthew Hillman were tackling ferociously, with No 8 Griff Davies very willing to take on the opposition with driving runs.

After half an hour, the Steelmen laid siege to the Athletic line. A series of five-metre driving mauls eventually paid dividends when former Athletic wing Tylan Mafi forced his way over. Outside half Digby Bird levelled the scores with the conversion, for the sides to finish the half at 7-all.

It was now Tata Steel's turn to have wind advantage. The Athletic took a leaf out of their opponent's book and their pack, led by man of match hooker Simon Mustoe, took the game to the opposition.

They were dominating play and outside half Josh Davies and centre Stuart Morris were both held up just short of the line by desperate defence.

When Tata Steel kicked long, the defensive trio of wings Lloyd Pemberton, Lyndsey MacAuland and Michael Hathaway were prepared to run back at them and link with their pack.

The Athletic were now hammering away at the Steel line and scrum half Tom Davies deceived everybody, including the referee, as he dummed and then dived over the opposition to touch down for a "try".

However, the referee had looked away and by the time he had a view, the Steel had also put hands on the ball. The opposition players and



coaches conceded after the game that they had been lucky with the decision.

Tata Steel cleared their lines and the Athletic were penalised on half way. Backchat from frustration led to the penalty being advanced 10 metres, and Digby Bird used the wind well to kick the penalty.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 34)

James Olds makes a break. PHOTOS by GLENNSPORTS

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